

Counter-inflation Bill survives 26 hours of Commons pressure

The Government's counter-inflation Bill was passed intact by the Commons yesterday after the longest sitting of the House since 1951. During the gruelling 26-hour session the Bill was subject to continual pressure from opposition parties and left-wing Labour backbenchers. The Ministers have apparently abandoned attempts to include reference in the Bill to possible injunctions sought by employers against strikers pursuing a pay rise claim of more than £6.

Longest sitting since 1951

By Hugh Noyes
Parliamentary Correspondent

The Remuneration, Charges and Grants Bill, designed to support the Government's counter-inflation strategy, completed its committee stage in the Commons yesterday after the longest sitting for more than 20 years.

The Bill, which removes contractual obligations on employers to give increases above the 5% limit outlined in the White Paper, *The Attack on Inflation*, and provides for sanctions against employers who exceed the limit, survived intact in spite of continuous pressure from the Conservative and Liberal parties and from a well organized group of left-wing Labour backbenchers.

The sitting, which began on Thursday afternoon, lasted 26 hours and 26 minutes, wiping out yesterday's business. The last time a sitting continued into the next day's business was in July 1972, when the House spent 22 hours on the Local Government Bill.

The longest sitting this century was in 1936, when unemployment assistance regulations were discussed for 34 hours and 15 minutes. The only longer sitting since the war was one of just under 32 hours on the Finance Bill in 1951.

After an early shock yesterday when the Government's majority dropped to one on a Liberal amendment supported by the Conservatives, there was little excitement in the

divisions. Government majorities throughout the night varied between 20 and 30, although there was one of 79. The only direct challenge by the Tribune group of left-wing Labour MPs, on an amendment to limit the pay curb powers to six months, was defeated by 229 votes to 33, Government majority 196.

The two main conclusions at the end of the debate were that the Conservative Party is in total disarray over its counter-inflation tactics, and that the Government is flying in on a wing and a prayer, hoping frantically that everything will come right.

As the night wore on, more and more loopholes were revealed, until it was clear that little more than the good will of employers and workers remains to keep the counter-inflation flag flying.

Certainly, no one was stopped from dismissing their employees one day and hiring them again the next at a wage incorporating an increase greater than 5%. Mrs Williams, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, also disclosed that there could be no sanctions against private employers who exceeded the pay limit unless they applied for a price increase.

From the Ulster Unionist benches Mr Enoch Powell asserted that the improper legislation derived from a desperate anxiety by Mr Foot, Secretary of State for Employment, and the Government to maintain that their policy was voluntary.

not statutory. To keep up the pretence they were making bad law and introducing injustice and unfairness, which would strike both at employees and employers.

Mrs Oppenheim, on the Tory front bench, remarked with some justification that at the end of the day the secretaries of state for Prices and Consumer Protection and for Employment could end up certifying each other.

But the Conservatives came worse out of the debate. Many Tory backbenchers clearly were unhappy at the dog-in-the-manger attitude of their front-bench spokesmen.

With their own discredited statutory policy discarded in failure only 18 months ago, and with the leadership now favouring a voluntary strategy, it is possible the Tory frontbenchers used the debate largely to attack the Government for not introducing more controls. In the words of Pope, it was a case of "willing to wound, and yet hesitant to strike, just hint a fault, and hesitate dislike".

They sneered and jeered at Mrs Williams and Mr Foot for introducing statutory controls under the cloak of voluntarism, but in the next breath supported amendments to government proposals that would have increased the statutory element. At no stage did anything like a coherent alternative strategy emerge from the Conservative leaders.

Mrs Williams, the most Continued on page 2, col 1

Injunctions clause dropped

By Michael Hatfield
Political Staff

Cabinet ministers involved in the drafting of the Government's counter-inflation reserve powers Bill have apparently abandoned their attempts to incorporate in the Bill any reference to possible injunctions sought by an employer against strikers pursuing a wage claim above the 5% limit.

The Government is holding back the Bill, which includes penal sanctions against employers who demonstrably break the pay limit, because of official difficulties involving the Government's relationship with the trade union movement.

Mr Healey, Chancellor of the Exchequer, hinted at the Government's difficulties on injunctions when pressed in the Commons last Monday. He admitted "this is precisely one of the drafting points still under consideration".

It was learnt last night, how-

ever, that ministers have been unable to overcome the difficulties and have therefore given up the prospect of including any reference to injunctions in the Bill. What that seems to mean is that if the Government has to bring in the reserve powers, it will be left to the courts to rule on any injunction sought by an employer.

Whitehall departments involved in the drafting of the Bill, including the Treasury and the Department of Employment, have already produced a number of versions. Those have been discussed by the ministers involved, but the draft proposals have not yet been before the Cabinet for approval.

What does appear to have been accepted, however, is that any penal sanctions against employers should be on the basis of the traditional two-tier principle: summary convictions and indictable offences. Ministers agree that on summary conviction the courts should be limited to a fine of a few hundred pounds, but on an indictable offence, any penal sanction is limitless and left to the courts.

OAU Ministers discuss moves against Israel

From Our Correspondent
Addis Ababa, July 25

The Organization of African Unity ministerial council, meeting in Kampala in advance of the organization's annual summit, discussed two draft resolutions on Israel and the Middle East in closed session.

One, sponsored by Egypt, calls for the suspension of Israel from the United Nations for ignoring United Nations resolutions, while the other, put forward by the Palestine Liberation Organization, proposes Israel's complete expulsion.

The result is expected to be an agreement on a strong anti-

Israel resolution for submission to the summit. Foreign Ministers of the Islamic world, meeting in Jiddah nine days ago, vetoed for Israel's expulsion. While the Security Council could veto Israel's expulsion from the world body, its opponents could now command enough votes to keep it out of the General Assembly.

The ministerial council was due to end today, but could not do so. The question of South Africa's status has yet to be debated, and it is proposed that its expulsion from the United Nations should be sought.

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Leading article, page 13

Year's jail for defiant leader of IRA

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Liberia: Six-page Special Report on economic and political developments

Jump in minimum lending rate to 11pc forestalls pressure on pound

By Tim Congdon

Minimum lending rate, the rate at which the Bank of England lends to leading financial institutions in the City, was increased yesterday from 10 to 11 per cent.

The Bank of England had signalled that it wanted MLR to rise earlier in the week by its tactics in the discount market. Some uncertainty about the size of the increase remained until yesterday, but financial markets were not disturbed when the rise was announced and sterling remained steady.

The increase is designed to keep interest rates in Britain competitive with those abroad. Rates in the United States have been rising because the American monetary authorities have decided to restrain money supply growth. The increase in MLR should prevent funds being attracted from London to

New York and forestall pressure on the pound.

It is not expected to have any immediate effect on bank lending rates. Sir Eric Faulkner, chairman of Lloyds Bank, said yesterday that on purely commercial grounds he did not see any need for an increase in bank base rates at the moment. Building societies also see no need to increase their mortgage rates for the time being.

Most banks remain underlent with plenty of funds available to meet the present level of corporate borrowing demand, and to some extent are, therefore, insulated from the need to respond to any rise in short-term market rates. It is acknowledged, however, that banks cannot stand out against interest rate trends for long once they are seen to become firmly established.

The general feeling is that the rise in short-term interest rates is temporary. The excess-

sively rapid rise in the American money supply which has prompted the increase is thought likely to give way to more moderate expansion in the next few weeks, which will enable the American monetary authorities and then the Bank of England to relax their policies again.

Nevertheless, the increases have been engineered by the authorities in both countries, although demand remains depressed and unemployment has risen to record levels. The moves may be seen, therefore, as a sign of both governments' determination to contain inflation by maintaining firm control over monetary conditions.

Minimum Lending Rate is tied to the average rate at the Treasury bill tender by an automatic formula. The average rate yesterday was 10.447 per cent compared with 9.493 per cent last week.

US prime rates up, page 13

Turkey takes control of American bases

From Our Correspondent
Ankara, July 25

The Turkish Government has decided to take control of all 26 American defence installations in Turkey, an official communiqué said tonight. Only the Incirlik airbase near Adana, in southern Turkey, is exempted from the decree, "excluding NATO purposes."

Mr William Macomber, the American Ambassador, was called to the Prime Minister's office and informed of the decision.

It was the first official reaction to the vote taken on Tuesday night in which Congress refused to lift the ban on military aid in force since February 5.

Ford plea to Turkey, page 5

'50 secrecy breaches' in Wilson memoirs

By Martin Huckerby

The memoirs of Mr Wilson contain more than 50 breaches of the parameters governing the secrecy of Cabinet or ministerial discussions. It was suggested in the High Court yesterday during the Crossman diaries case. Mr James Conyn, QC, counsel for Times Newspapers Ltd, spoke of Mr Wilson's "overall disregard" for the "paramount principle."

Mr Samuel Silkin, QC, the Attorney General, is seeking injunctions to prevent publication of the diaries, either in book form or as extracts in the *Sunday Times*. He has argued that the diaries contain "a mass of confidential information, the disclosure of which would be a serious breach of the confidence reposed in him by his colleagues."

But Mr Conyn said that in Mr Wilson's memoirs, *The Labour Government 1964-70*, they believed that there were a total of 53 direct breaches of the parameters, which cover Cabinet discussions, and discussions between ministers and the Prime Minister.

Mr Conyn referred to a passage in which Mr Wilson referred to being "inveigled" in 1965 by officials of the Commonwealth Relations Office into a wrong statement which embittered relations with India, and of how he had been "taken for a ride by a pro-Pakistan faction in the Commonwealth Relations Office. It did not remain there for long."

He noted other passages about Cabinet discussions on a voluntary incomes policy, on the cancellation of the TSR2 aircraft, on devaluation, and on constitutional strikes.

Mr Conyn, in his submission to the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Widgery, said: "The freedom of the press is very seriously threatened by this action." The work of a political correspondent would be rendered "virtually impossible" if the full parameters claimed by the Attorney General were accepted.

He argued that the right remedy for the problem caused by memoirs was an Act of Parliament giving the public interest was "one of the most dangerous

arguments which had ever been addressed to a court in this country". He said that if the case ultimately became a decision on the matter of public interest, he would ask your lordship to rule down on the side of the public, in regard to public interest, and not on the side of the establishment."

Lord Widgery suggested that he did not see the question of public interest as a cause for acting in this way. "At the moment, I'm inclined to think that the Attorney's best approach to this problem is the confidentiality moment any other way."

Earlier, Mr Silkin had said that "a snowball process" was seen to begin when an article in *The Sunday Times* quoted one Cabinet minister commenting on another. If the law was largely powerless to stop that proliferation, the snowball would roll downhill, bringing with it the shattering remnants of the doctrine of collective responsibility.

Mr Foot, the Secretary of State for Employment, who is one of Mr Crossman's literary executors, said in an affidavit: "I doubt whether there is any general view in the Cabinet, or among politicians generally, on the publication of memoirs."

In another affidavit, Lord Kennet, the former Labour junior minister, said that he believed Mr Crossman's diaries contained common knowledge in Westminster and Whitehall. In the Cabinet and in Mr Crossman's department. He added that it was common knowledge that other Cabinet ministers, in particular Mrs Castle, Secretary of State for Social Services, were keeping diaries, which would be material for subsequent publication.

Mrs Anne Crossman, Mr Crossman's widow, said in an affidavit that around 1970 her husband had been asked by Mr Wilson to publish his diary until after the next general election, since it might harm the prospects of the Labour Party. She said her husband agreed to defer publication until after the election which took place in February, 1974.

The case continues on Monday.

Delhi arrest of leading Indian journalist

Delhi, July 25—One of India's leading journalists, Mr Kuldip Nayyar, editor of the *Indian Express* news service and Delhi correspondent of *The Times* since 1969, was arrested today under the country's emergency laws.

A spokesman for the news service said Mr Nayyar was arrested at his home this morning under the newly amended Maintenance of Internal Security Act (MISA). No reason was given for his arrest.

Mr Nayyar is a former *Indian Express* editor. He joined the *Indian Express* news service from eight centres around the country linked by its own news service, earlier this year.

He is also the author of three books on the subcontinent: *Distant Neighbours*, *India: The Critical Years*, and *Between the Lines*. He was press officer to Mr Lal Bahadur Shastri, the late Prime Minister, whom Mrs Gandhi succeeded in 1966.

The Indian Government announced today that it was extending this week's emergency session of Parliament to enable

it to complete pending business. The Upper House will remain in session until July 30 and the Lower House until July 31. The sessions of both Houses had originally been due to end on July 28.

The remaining business largely concerns the arrest powers taken by the Government since it declared a state of emergency on June 25.

Editor's concern. Mr William Rees-Mogg, editor of *The Times*, expressed his concern at the arrest of Mr Nayyar, the Delhi correspondent of *The Times* in recent years. Mr Rees-Mogg had no part in Mr Nayyar's arrest, but he has informed us, signed the agreement to publish his diaries, which do not comply with Indian censorship laws. We have of course not asked him to do so.

I very much hope that you will feel able to order the release of Mr Nayyar, a man whose reputation stands very high in the world of journalism.

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HOME NEWS

Mr Stonehouse criticizes select committee chairman for refusing to allow him a hearing

By Our Political Staff
Mr John Stonehouse, Labour MP for Walsall, North, who is in British prison on remand, has tabled a motion on the Commons order paper criticizing Mr George Strauss, Labour MP for Lambeth, Vauxhall, who was chairman of the select committee which recommended Mr Stonehouse's expulsion from Parliament.

The motion calls upon the Commons to regret statements attributed to Mr Strauss that the committee had finished its work and to the effect that Mr Stonehouse, to quote the motion, "is not needed to make a statement in the House". Mr Stonehouse asks MPs to believe that such statements are unfair to himself and unjust as they imply a denial of free speech to an MP who has never had an opportunity of explaining to his colleagues the reason for his breakdown during 1974 which necessitated his enforced absence from the House on medical advice.

Mr Stonehouse said: "Amazing story": Mr Harry Richards, chairman of the Walsall, North, constituency Labour Party, said yesterday that Mr Stonehouse planned to tell Bow Street magistrates on Monday about pressures used against him (the Press Association reports).

Mr Richards, who is among those who have called for Mr Stonehouse's resignation, said: "He is confident that he will get bail when he appears before the magistrate on Monday". Mr Richards said: "He told me a long and interesting story. I think it is an amazing story which should be told". Mr Richards said: "It is about the pressures and subterfuge that are being used against him. Probably his lawyers didn't think this story should be told in court. But now they are going back to Australia and Mr Stonehouse intends to tell it himself".

Mr Richards, who was the MP's agent at the last election, said Mr Stonehouse had told him he planned to go to the Commons to take up his parliamentary duties again as soon as he got bail.

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accepted recommendations for increases in the additional money paid to specialists and consultants in the forces, and increases in pre-registration medical practitioners, the service equivalent of civilian house doctors.

Examples of the new rates, with present salaries in brackets, are: captain on appointment £5,997 (£4,548); major on appointment £7,738 (£5,413); lieutenant-colonel on appointment £8,906 (£6,577); colonel on appointment £10,057 (£7,532); brigadier £11,001 (£8,304).

The report also handles salary increases for 35 non-regular permanent staff of the (Upper Defence Regiment and 150 of the Territorial and Army Volunteer Reserve. Most are recruited from regular army officers. They will continue to receive three quarters of the regular officer's pay in the same rank. But they will then increase, like regular officers' pay, according to length of service.

The total net cost of all the recommendations made by the review body and accepted by the Government is £2,683,000, or 1.5 per cent of the 1975-76 Stationery Office, 20p.

Mr Norman Willis, TUC assistant general secretary, said yesterday: "The TUC policy deserves the support of everybody who genuinely cares about the future for themselves, their families, their neighbours and their work."

"The latest, very serious, unemployment figures show how much the policy is needed. If it fails, there is no doubt that hundreds of thousands of jobs are at risk."

Union warning: The General and Musicians Workers' Union gave a warning yesterday that it was not prepared to enter into productivity agreements if the price was greater production with fewer jobs.

Mr David Warburton, national industrial officer, said: "We cannot allow mavericks on whatever side of industry to jeopardize the basic living standards of our members and create a wave of redundancies."

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an MP, at least for a brief period. Mr Richards said: "If people leave any cause, they want him to deal with it. I shall take him at his word and let him deal with them."

"Even if he is still in Britain, he can still deal with them. Sheila Buckley, I understand, is still acting as his secretary. He can still table questions for the Commons."

Mr Stonehouse had said he wanted to appear at a constituency meeting on August 14, due to consider a call for him not to be readmitted at the next general election.

"My own personal opinion is that he will resign eventually, but as he has told me, he will not be hustled", Mr Richards said.

He said Mr Stonehouse was still not eating, but that was not a hunger strike, it was part of a plan. He was doing it to get fit and had had experience of it at health farms.

"Mr Richards said: 'I am not looking for it. He was the old John Stonehouse this morning.'"

Officers defended: Mr Marcus Lipton, Labour MP for Lambeth, Central, yesterday defended prison officers at Brixton against accusations by Mr Stonehouse that they were being used as prisoners' solicitors access so that writs could be served.

Mr Lipton said: "I am not prepared to accept uncorroborated allegations of illegal and brutal behaviour on the part of prison warders at Brixton."

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Five of nine Italians who yesterday completed a 900-mile journey in two rowing boats from Turin to London via the inland waterways of seven countries.

State rescue of Leyland attacked by Tory MPs

Putting British Leyland into the public sector, perpetuating economic inefficiency, the Selsdon group of Conservative MPs said in a pamphlet yesterday. When added to the negative results of other government policies, they argued, it would lead to a collapse of living standards.

The group of 50 MPs is totally opposed to the planned rescue of British Leyland and said that it should be liquidated. They argued that the rescue would be a waste of money and that the company should be allowed to fail.

As more and more people worked in jobs which needed state subsidies to keep going, the profitable sector of the economy was being squeezed into decline, the pamphlet said. "Soon, profits will be unable to pay for the subsidies."

The Selsdon group said that by raising money to prop up Leyland, the government was cutting employment, investment and the ability to produce and export in other industries. By "bailing out" British Leyland, the Government would give untold encouragement to militant trade unionism and the effect would be to disarm the moderates completely.

Italian talks, page 15

Attempt to remove polytechnic governor

From Stephen Cohen
The Times Educational Supplement

Lord Annan, Provost of University College London, has intervened in the affairs of North London Polytechnic with an unprecedented move to block the appointment of a governor. He has opposed the nomination of Professor E. J. Lefevre, of Queen Mary College, London, who was due to be re-nominated as one of two London University representatives on the polytechnic's court of governors.

When the item came up at a private meeting of the university senate last week, Lord Annan raised an objection. Sir Douglas Logan, principal of London University, commented afterwards: "In all my 28 years as principal I have never known anything like this. I cannot see how a governor before a decision on Professor Lefevre's nomination has been deferred until the senate meets against later in the year."

Professor Lefevre is a leader of a group of polytechnic governors who are opposed to Mr Terence Miller, the director. Lord Annan has emerged as Mr Miller's main defender. He championed his cause in a letter to the Times on July 3 which caused controversy both within and outside the polytechnic. He said that affairs at the polytechnic were a scandal.

For full details, send for 12 page colour catalogue
LANCO, Dept. T19 29 Norton Folgate, London E1 6DG.

HOME NEWS

Pardon for innocent man after 300 days in jail

From Ronald Faux

Edinburgh. A man imprisoned for a bank robbery yesterday with a free release from the Queen. Mr. Swanson, aged 44, had served 300 days of a five-year sentence he received at the High Court in Glasgow. Throughout the case, he had claimed he was innocent.

Mr. Swanson's release from Peterhead Prison, Aberdeenshire, came after another client of Mr. Joseph Beltrami, his lawyer, confessed that he had committed the robbery.

An inquiry was ordered by Mr. Ronald King Murray, the Lord Advocate, and Mr. Swanson received the royal pardon. Mr. Beltrami said yesterday that the confession was made to him five weeks ago. The "horrifying" aspect of the case was that Mr. Swanson had been positively identified by two witnesses as a man who had pushed a note demanding money across the counter of the Bank of Scotland branch in Maryhill Road, Glasgow, he added.

After the raid, police described the man they wanted as being aged about 30, 5ft 8in

tall, and wearing a brown pin-stripe suit. Mr. Swanson, aged 44, is almost 6ft tall and when he was arrested, police could find no trace of either the distinctive brown suit or the £2,700 stolen from the bank.

The Scottish Office said: The Queen, on the recommendation of Mr. William Ross, the Secretary of State for Scotland, has exercised the royal prerogative of mercy to grant a free pardon to Mr. Maurice Swanson on conviction for robbery at the High Court in Glasgow on August 28, 1974. The pardon follows a report to the Secretary of State from the Lord Advocate who has inquired about the case in the light of new information presented to him in relation to the crime for which Mr. Swanson was convicted.

A Scottish Office spokesman said later that advice would be taken on compensation for Mr. Swanson. He agreed the free pardon granted to Mr. Swanson, who was born in Poland, was exceptional. Normally pardons are granted only in respect of traffic offenders or in a case where a prisoner was dying. A Crown Office spokesman added yesterday that the inquiries into the robbery would be reopened.

Mr. Swanson was not available for comment after his release.

Police chief told to resign after hearing

Chief Superintendent Clifford Greenwood, commander of the Thanet division of Kent police, has been required to resign after the hearing of 17 disciplinary charges against him by Mr. Peter Matthews, the Chief Constable of Surrey.

A Kent police statement yesterday said Mr. Greenwood, aged 45, intended to appeal to Mr. Jenkins, the Home Secretary.

He was required to resign on the first charge, was reduced to the rank of chief inspector on three others and was reprimanded on a fifth charge. The others were dismissed.

During the hearing, which lasted several weeks, nearly 100 witnesses gave evidence for and against Mr. Greenwood, who lives in Devonshire Gardens, Margate.

Mr. Greenwood was suspended from duty on July 1 last year and a lengthy report was later sent to the Director of Public Prosecutions. The nature of the allegations against the chief superintendent has not been disclosed.

Mr. Greenwood made allegations against senior officers in the Kent force and those were investigated by Mr. Arthur Lamberton, Chief Constable of Dorset.



Picket freed: Mr. Eric Tomlinson, one of the "Shrewsbury Two" leaves Leicester prison on parole yesterday. He had served 15 months of a two-year sentence for conspiring to intimidate workers during the 1972 building strike.

Grants for postgraduates up by at least a fifth

By a Staff Reporter

Details of increases in grants of a fifth and more for post-graduate students in 1975-76 were announced yesterday by Mr. Mulley, Secretary of State for Education and Science.

Grants for students living away from home in London will go up from £900 to £1,180, and for those living away from home elsewhere, from £880 to £1,085. The increase in each case is 23 per cent.

The grant for students living at home goes up by a fifth from £660 to £790. The increases are comparable to those recently announced for undergraduate students.

Married women will receive the same grant as married men, although in both cases the allowances may be reduced to take account of the spouse's income. The spouse's contribution, introduced last year, will continue for the new academic year. It is generally assessed on the same basis as for undergraduates, starting with a residual income, after various allowances, of £2,200. The arrangements are to be reviewed later this year.

An allowance of up to £120 a year will be payable to any student who, because of a disability, is obliged to incur additional expenses. That extends to postgraduates the provision introduced last year for undergraduates.

The department estimates that the additional cost of the increases in grants will be £3m. Union reaction: Mr. Charles Clarke, president of the National Union of Students, said: "To wait until the end of July to tell September's postgraduates that they will only get a 23 per cent rise to compensate for 29 per cent inflation is a fair indication of the priority this Government gives to the consumers of education (the Press Association reports).

Each year had worked done on their homes, but, according to Mr. Clarkson, bills for the work and for household heating were put through the company accounts to avoid paying tax. Many other benefits from the company were not revealed.

Mr. Clarkson also mentioned a £1,250 National Coal Board compensation payment to one of the companies that had never reached the firm. It appeared that the payment went direct to one of the brothers, he said, but there was no evidence to prove it.

The brothers each pleaded guilty to one offence of conspiracy and six offences of making false statements.

Mr. Clarkson said that earlier this year the EMI group had paid £5,700,000 for the bingo concern.

TUC denies disputes procedure is arbitrary and capricious

The TUC yesterday challenged allegations that its internal disputes procedure was arbitrary and capricious.

Mr. Peter Pain, QC, appearing for the TUC in a High Court hearing over the merger of a company staff association and a white collar union, said the TUC disputes committee heard about 80 disputes a year. They were generally over spheres of influence and whether there was poaching of members between unions.

The question whether they were properly dealt with was not only to the trade union movement, but also to the public, in preserving ordinary industrial relations. The TUC resisted strongly any allegation that the procedure, which had been running for many years, was wrong. Mr. Pain told Mr. Justice Foster.

The judge is hearing a case arising out of the merger last August of the General Accident Fire and Life Assurance group's staff association (SAGA) with the Association of Professional Executive, Clerical and Computer Staffs (Apex).

After the merger, the executive of Apex decided to comply with a TUC disputes committee ruling that the Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs (ASTMS) was the proper union for the group's staff.

Mr. Charles Rothwell, chairman of Apex, is asking the judge to save the merger by ordering Apex not to obey the TUC ruling. He is challenging the validity of the TUC model rule designed to give disputes committee decisions binding effect on member unions.

Apex has its own move before the court to stop any TUC disciplinary moves against it if Rothwell succeeds.

Mr. Anthony Lester, QC, Mr. Rothwell, contended that the evidence of the general secretary of the TUC and general secretary of Apex, case involved a wholly arbitrary and capricious mechanism which interfered not merely with freedom of association, but also with existing contractual rights with the right to work.

By the right to work, meant not only the opportunity of obtaining employment, but also the employment opportunities that were incidental to the membership of a trade union.

The hearing continues Monday. Claim rejected: Staff at Leamington and General yesterday rejected the union's claim to gain a right from the ASTMS after a secret ballot.

Brothers are jailed for income tax fraud

From Our Correspondent

Leeds. Two brothers who run a multimillion-pound entertainment group were each jailed for two years and fined £14,000 at Leeds Crown Court yesterday after pleading guilty to defrauding the Inland Revenue of about £47,000 in tax.

Rodney Eckart, aged 39, of Fulwith Road, Harrogate, and Derek Eckart, aged 45, of Farnham Road, Harrogate, are joint managing directors of an entertainment chain of 90 companies based at Leeds, which operates cinemas, bingo halls, discotheques and bi-theatres in London, Yorkshire, Lancashire and Lincolnshire. Judge Nevin, also ordering them to pay not more than £2,000 each towards the prosecution costs, said that they had brought all their troubles on themselves.

Sir Peter Rawlinson, QC, for the brother, said they had brought their empire into a state of near-collapse if not collapse. Without the two it could collapse.

Mr. Derek Clarkson, for the prosecution, said the brothers had houses and cars on an expensive scale, owned boats, bought thousands of pounds worth of paintings and jewelry and one had a villa in Spain. But they were motivated by greed and used many methods to cheat the Inland Revenue.

Each brother had worked done on their homes, but, according to Mr. Clarkson, bills for the work and for household heating were put through the company accounts to avoid paying tax. Many other benefits from the company were not revealed.

Mr. Clarkson also mentioned a £1,250 National Coal Board compensation payment to one of the companies that had never reached the firm. It appeared that the payment went direct to one of the brothers, he said, but there was no evidence to prove it.

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Mr. Clarkson said that earlier this year the EMI group had paid £5,700,000 for the bingo concern.

Council letting refuse pile up, court told

Uncollected refuse in the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea is causing such a nuisance that some residents are refusing to pay rates, the court was told yesterday.

Lady Birdwood, of Philbeach Gardens, Earsl Court, was given leave by Lord Justice James, Mr. Justice Nield, and Mr. Justice Chapman, sitting in the Queen's Bench Divisional Court, to seek a court order requiring the council to clear the rubbish.

"Feeling in the borough is so strong about this that people who are very law-abiding citizens are now resorting to refusing to pay their rates, and this is undermining the rule of law," she said.

Lady Birdwood, a resident of the borough since 1969, conducted her own case. She told the judges that the stench from the garbage dumped in the streets was terrible. She produced photographs, and said: "I am sorry to have to ask you to look at such unpleasant pictures. We have to look at a lot of unpleasant pictures in this court," Lord Justice James replied.

Lady Birdwood said the nuisance from refuse began with strikes by council workers. Now, even with no strikes, a council was not carrying out its duty to collect household rubbish and clean the street she contended.

"People who have come to the borough in the last four or five years have never seen proper service in operation," she said. "This has tended to exacerbate the situation because now people just drop litter and the council has not been able to spend more money on making more efficient, but that has not happened. Small litter bins put in some streets had no help, because they filled up under the rubbish spilling out, then other rubbish was piled on top of that. Lady Birdwood said protesters had got 'down to the bottom'."

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Form designed to make welfare claims easier will be tested next month

By Pat Healy

Social Services Correspondent

People in Shropshire will become guinea pigs next month for a joint attempt by central and local government to make claiming welfare benefits easier. They will be able to make a single claim for up to 12 different benefits, which normally have to be claimed separately, by using a new form.

The form was designed because of growing concern that many people were deterred from claiming benefits because of the number of times the same information had to be given on different forms from different offices.

The new form will be tested over a year, initially in Shropshire but later in other areas.

It covers six local authority and six government benefits, including rent and rate rebates, school meals and clothing allowances, free prescriptions, welfare milk and refunds of hospital travelling expenses.

If the tests prove favourable, it may be introduced nationally. Although the new form has taken three years to produce, its language has not been too simplified. It talks of "a simplification of the procedure for claiming these benefits by the use of only one application form and gives three different options for filling it in."

To find out which way is the right one, the claimant is likely to need advice and during the experiment it will be available from the local council, a social security office or a Citizens' Advice Bureau.

The form includes 13 notes on definitions, only one expressed in a single sentence. Two refer the reader on to other notes. Throughout, claimants are invited to cross out categories which do not apply to them. But they are clearly warned that "to give false information may lead to prosecution."

The terminology clearly owes more to administrative practice than to any attempt to help people who do not know how the system works. The Shropshire tests are intended as an experiment, but they might have had a better chance if the consumers had been consulted at the design stage.

A similar scheme, announced earlier this month, is planned by the local authority in Liverpool.

Four cars hit pedestrian

A Belfast pedestrian was recovering in hospital last night after being knocked down by four cars as he crossed Falls Road. Three of the drivers sped off without stopping.

Mr. Robert Finnegan, aged 23, was first struck by a taxi. While he was on the ground, a second car hit him and he was hurled to the opposite pavement.

As bystanders rushed to his assistance, a green van drove through the crowd, striking Mr. Finnegan and two other people. A fourth car came from behind and struck him as well.

His injuries included a fractured skull, fractured pelvis and a broken leg. But the hospital said that he was in no immediate danger.

Conference on earth tremors

A conference to discuss recurring earth tremors at Stoke-on-Trent will be held on August 5 at the National Coal Board office in the town. It was disclosed yesterday.

Department of Energy officials will be joined by members of the Global Seismic Unit in Edinburgh, Keele University experts, and coal board and local authority officials. Tremors have shaken homes in the Trent Vale area of Stoke four times in the past few days.

Bus falls into crater

Twenty passengers on a bus escaped serious injury yesterday when the vehicle plunged into a six-deep crater that opened in a road in Mansfield, Nottinghamshire. A burst water main under the road had weakened the surface.

Actor's wife sues Mrs. Gabrielle Crawford, aged 27, wife of Mr. Michael Crawford, aged 33, the actor, is petitioning for divorce in an undefended case listed in London. The couple married in 1965.

Game fair set for record attendance

From Our Correspondent

Cheshire. The Country Landowners' Association's annual game fair, which began in 1958 with an attendance of 8,500, seems certain to produce a record figure today after yesterday's total of almost 40,000 visitors to the event at Chatsworth.

Last year the one-day fair achieved a record of 63,500 at Stratfield Saye, Hampshire, but Major-General Geoffrey Armistead, the game fair secretary and treasurer, believes that figure will be surpassed easily if the good weather continues.

More than 28,000 people paid to go through the gates and with members and exhibitors it was estimated that between 33,000 and 40,000 people were in the park at one stage.

Tonsil operations done too often specialist says

Many of the 130,000 operations each year to remove tonsils may be unnecessary, Professor Donald Harrison, a specialist at the Royal National Throat, Nose and Ear Hospital in London, said yesterday.

"The present criterion for tonsil removal is imprecise and open to a great deal of individual interpretation," he said. The risk of death was small, but the frequency of after-effects from the operation was unknown and it carried a degree of unpleasantness that could have a disturbing psychological effect on some.

Because the grounds for the operation were imprecisely defined, many children were being exposed to it unnecessarily.

The Department of Health and Social Security ought to carry out trials to define when the operation was necessary, Professor Harrison said. By eliminating unnecessary tonsil operations, waiting lists would be shortened and much money saved.

Probation's 'central role'

From Ronald Kershaw

Leeds. Social problems must not be swept under the carpet by excessive or ill-advised use of prisons, mental hospitals and other institutions, Mr. W. R. Weston, chief probation officer for West Yorkshire, said in his annual report published yesterday.

That was true not only of delinquent behaviour but also of mental illness, infirmity and other forms of personal breakdown. Mr. Weston recalled a time in the early days of this century when social work could be described as a fringe activity. Today, he said, "society is less stable, values are more fluid and, partly because of this, those to whom social work support has to be given are by no means marginal in their experience of difficulties."

The report of the Advisory Council on the Penal System, Mr. Weston said, placed its faith in the probation service as a main means of correcting criminal behaviour among the 17-21 age group. "The probation service is no longer on the 'lee side' of other more stringent penal measures but central in corrective and rehabilitative work with offenders and in social change."

Home Office approval has been given for the start on August 1 of a scheme of community service for offenders in much of West Yorkshire.

Closely links between information services urged in report on advice bureaux

By Diana Geddes

A call for the coordination at national and local levels of the wide range of information and advice services now available to the public, is made in a report by the independent review committee on the Citizens' Advice Bureau Service in Greater London, published yesterday.

The committee, under the chairmanship of Sir Kenneth Younger, was set up in 1973 to advise on the future role of the bureaux in London. It draws attention to the unprecedented growth of information and advice centres in London over the past few years. By mid-1974 there were 102 bureaux, 46 housing advice centres, 57 local advice centres, 13 consumer advice centres and a variety of others.

Most centres are run by local authorities, with the notable exception of the bureaux themselves, which are independent, although mostly financed by local authorities.

Government departments provide financial and verbal encouragement for some of the centres. "But no single government department has been given responsibility for developing or encouraging others to develop advice services as a coordinated whole, or for establishing priorities as between one kind of centre and another," the committee says.

At the local level in Greater London the same lack of co-ordination was apparent. Local authorities had invested resources in advice centres of various kinds, sometimes guided by the interests and enthusiasms of individual councillors, officers and pressure groups as by an informed analysis of the needs of the area.

The committee did not wish to see a single uniform pattern of advice services imposed on the whole of Greater London. The service had had to adapt as best it could to an uncertain and changing environment and this had led to increasing diversity as well as to a variety of cooperative ventures with other bodies, such as centres and solicitor schemes. The explosion of specialized advice centres, far from detracting from the work of the bureaux, had increased their volume of inquiries.

An average of nearly 5,000 inquiries a year are handled by each of the London bureaux, nearly half of which are accounted for by family and personal, as well as housing and property inquiries. The rest being mainly consumer, employment, social security and health inquiries.

The average annual cost of running a bureau in central London (which normally has more paid professional staff than bureaux elsewhere) is £8,000. The service is one of the cheapest advice services, the report says, with each inquiry costing an average of 65p. Report of the Review Committee on the Citizens' Advice Bureau Service in Greater London. (Greater London Citizens' Advice Bureau Service, 68 Chatham Street, London NW1, 50p).

Man in court on airport fake gun charges

A man was remanded

in custody for a week yesterday charged with possession of a replica revolver at Manchester airport on Thursday night with intent to take an aircraft illegally.

Paul Young, aged 21, a labourer of Driffield Street, Moss Side, Manchester, faced two charges before Manchester City magistrates.

They were that without lawful authority or reasonable excuse he had in an aircraft at Manchester airport an article having the appearance of a firearm contrary to the Protection of Aircraft Act, 1973, and that he had an imitation firearm, a replica .38 revolver, with intent to take an aircraft, contrary to the Firearms Act, 1968.

Mr. Charles Buckley, for Mr. Young, made no application for bail.

Holiday hotels sought for the handicapped

From A Staff Reporter

Leeds. The need for holiday hotel accommodation, solely for the severely disabled and their families, was emphasized last night by Mrs. Joan Lamb, an executive member of the Royal Society of District Spastics Society. On Monday the society will begin "Operation Chairlift", a 10-day holiday in Jersey for 15 severely disabled members.

They are going to Jersey because they could not find comparable facilities in Britain. Mrs. Lamb said:

"The Central Council for the Disabled published a book containing holiday facilities for the disabled but when you read the small print there are such conditions as no diets, no incontinence, no wheelchairs."

The Jersey hotel at St. Owen is designed specifically for the severely disabled and run by the island's branch of the Lions and the Maison des Landes Trust. A measure of the role it fills is that the Huddersfield party have had to wait three years to get in.

Police open fire from ambush to foil robbery

Police lying in ambush

at Bethnal Green, east London, yesterday prevented a robbery by firing eight shots at three armed and masked men tried to make off in a van.

One of the shots, fired after a sawn-off shotgun had been fired, struck the van's windscreen and it crashed. A man fell injured into the street.

Police accompanied a man to hospital for treatment for slight head injuries, and late three men were being interviewed.

The ambush of Flying Sus and regional crime force officers, three armed and masked men, was set up at a council depot in Digby Street after information had been received.

The raid came five minutes after wages for a hundred men had been delivered. A worker said the raid took just 20 seconds. The gang backed the van into the street.

"They made the two men, Mr. Joe Kingham and Mr. George Retts, lie on the floor," he said.

Anti-obscenity campaigner to take BBC to court

Mr. Raymond Blackburn, a prominent campaigner against pornography, was given leave by the High Court yesterday to bring action for contempt of court against the BBC and Mr. James Fierman, the new film censor.

He complained of an interview with Mr. Fierman on the BBC's Nationwide programme on July 11, commenting on Mr. Blackburn's pending prosecutions over the Swedish film Language of Love. Mr. Blackburn said that the BBC knew that on July 11 summonses relating to the film had been served on Lord Hareich, president of the British Board of Film Censors, and that Mr. Fierman was the board's secretary until Mr. Fierman takes over in September; and Classic Cinema Ltd.

Mr. Blackburn told Lord Justice James sitting in the Queen's Bench Divisional Court with Mr. Justice Nield and Mr. Justice Chapman, that he had informed the BBC of the summonses issued on July 1. He said that as soon as Mr. Fierman mentioned the pending case during the interview, he should have been "cut off". Mr. Blackburn complained particularly of Mr. Fierman's remark: "The film is seriously educational and can do nothing but good."

Mr. Blackburn said he wanted to "bring justice to the public and ensure that it is not 'poisoned and defiled' by the judgments of the press and television."

His case against Lord Hareich, Mr. Murphy and Classic Cinema started at Bow Street Magistrates' Court on Thursday. The defendants face charges of aiding and abetting counselling or procuring the offence of unlawfully and scandalously showing to the public a film of obscene nature.

The charge says the film "depicts grossly indecent or indecent acts in a way that is calculated to excite or gratify the audience."

Earlier this

WEST EUROPE

Portuguese revolution 'is moving too fast'

Lisbon, July 25.—President Costa Gomes today joined moderates in the ruling Armed Forces Movement in an attempt to halt the country's accelerating drift to the left.

In an opening speech at a session of the Armed Forces Movement Assembly, of 240 members, the President warned the officers that they were losing their support in the countryside.

"Leaving ideologies aside, we must humbly recognize that almost all the people were with our revolution and that today we have to admit that this is no longer the case. The march of the revolution has accelerated faster than the people have had the capacity to absorb it."

He told the assembly that political mechanisms in Lisbon carried too much weight with the military while a vast segment of the population was being ignored.

The President emphasized that Portugal was a geographical part of Western Europe and vulnerable to pressures from this direction.

"It seems to me that national independence cannot be obtained in the short run by any path that involves hostility to the West."

Portugal should try to increase its ties with Eastern Europe and the Third World, but must recognize the country's dependence on the West until some time in the future when Portugal could balance between the two blocks.

Jose Serebrieff writes from Lisbon: The assembly meeting comes after one held yesterday by delegates of the Army, who under the presidency of General Carlos Figueira, the Army Chief of Staff, tackled the problem of discipline in the Army and in the country. This, it is presumed, will be taken up by the assembly.

In his speech today, General Costa Gomes emphasized the need to study ways of maintaining national independence, taking into account both Portugal's strengths and weaknesses. Among the strengths he cited the country's geographical position and strategic points. On the other hand, Portugal's foreign trade was 90 per cent with the West and it had three million emigrant workers abroad; 1,500,000 emigrants from the Azores were in the United States and Canada.

Decolonization is one of the fundamental aims of the revolution, General Costa Gomes also insisted. "And the most profound motive of our anti-fascist activity." The meeting must take into account "our capacity of motivating the Portuguese armed forces in Angola."

Before entering today's meeting, Admiral Rosa Coutinho, a member of the Revolutionary Council, told reporters that "unity is the watchword."

Rumours of dissension among varying factions in the Armed Forces Movement have been rife for a long time. A spokesman for the movement, Captain Vasco Lourenco, admitting the existence of different currents of opinion, emphasized that so far these had always been overcome and "we hope we can do so now."

It has been stated that the formation of a new Government may not be announced before the beginning of next week. This has been in the making since the Socialist and Popular Democratic Party members walked out of the Government a fortnight ago.

Although speculation has been discouraged by the authorities, the newspaper *Jornal do Comercio* stated today that General Otelo Saraiva de Carvalho, the commander of the security forces, Copcon, and military governor of Lisbon, would be appointed Deputy Prime Minister together with a civilian,

Professor Teixeira Ribeiro, of the University of Coimbra. General Vasco Lourenco, the Prime Minister, has given it to be understood that he is striving to form a government representative of all currents of socialist thought and not on a party basis.

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Some of the 240 members taking part in the session of the Armed Forces Movement Assembly which opened in Lisbon yesterday.

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OVERSEAS

Mr Sadat and Dr Waldheim begin talks as hopes grow for new Sinai agreement

From Our Correspondent
Cairo, July 25

President Sadat and Dr Kurt Waldheim, the United Nations Secretary-General, held talks here tonight on the Middle East situation against a background of increasing hopes for an agreement on another withdrawal by Israel troops in Sinai.

Dr Waldheim arrived here after a Security Council resolution had ordered the United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF), separating Egyptian and Israeli forces in Sinai, to stay there after Egypt had agreed to extend its term for three months ending on October 24.

The Security Council had also expressed concern at the lack of concrete progress towards achieving a just and lasting Middle East peace.

Egyptian officials here expressed satisfaction at the resolution and the Council's appreciation of Egypt's last minute extension of the UNEF mandate.

Hearts that an obstacle had been put in the way of a Middle East settlement by Israel's demand for direct negotiations with Egypt had been alleviated after assurances from Tel Aviv and Washington that it was not meant to be an obstruction to peace efforts.

Dr Waldheim, speaking to reporters at the airport, emphasized the importance of his talks with President Sadat and Mr Ismail Fahmy, the Egyptian Foreign Minister, at the present stage of the Middle East crisis.

"For me it is very important to know the views of the Egyptian Government," he said.

He hoped that during the next three months real progress could be made towards a Middle East peace settlement. The UNEF presence should help the negotiations, he said.

Asked to comment on moves by some countries to expel Israel from the United Nations, Dr Waldheim replied that there were provisions in the United Nations Charter for such problems but "I cannot tell what the future will bring."

The United Nations was prepared to expand the Sinai buffer zone if a new Egyptian-Israeli disengagement accord was reached.

Mr Fahmy, who greeted Dr Waldheim on his arrival, was asked whether developments in the past few days had brought Egypt and Israel nearer to an agreement. He replied: "We have to wait and see."

Mr Sadat was understood to have emphasized to Dr Waldheim that Egypt had done its best to help Middle East peace efforts, and that it would not extend the UNEF term any further without concrete and satisfactory progress towards an overall settlement.

He was also understood to have asked Dr Waldheim for United Nations help in bringing about a further disengagement and another Israel troop withdrawal accord on the Syrian Golan Heights front.

Moshe Brilliant, writes from Cairo: Mr Rabin, the Israeli Prime Minister, said tonight that Egypt's latest proposals for an interim agreement were mostly unacceptable, but Cairo's approach was now more feasible than in March when the shuttle mission of Dr Kissinger, the American Secretary of State, broke down.

Interviewed on Israeli television, the Prime Minister recalled that "in March the Government demonstrated that it had a limit to what it could accept."

But he said that while Egypt's proposals transmitted this week via Washington were still unsatisfactory, they were on a different basis from March and the negotiations would continue with Israel not merely rejecting but submitting its own proposals. Mr Rabin gave a warning against expecting dramatic developments or conclusions in the next few days.

He criticized from discussing geographical details of the present negotiations but he revealed that the Israel withdrawal being discussed was a matter of 25 miles at the most. He remarked that the area was 30 miles from the Suez Canal and 169 miles from the prewar international boundary.

"So we are discussing territory closer to the heartland of Egypt than to Israel's prewar borders."

Mr Rabin made these remarks in refuting criticism that the proposals under consideration required Israel to do all the giving for no compensation.

He said another factor to be considered was that the

present negotiations were unlike the separation of forces agreed last year which had been designed to stop the shooting. "We are dealing with changing realities in the relationship between Egypt and Israel."

He said the only conceivable basis for an interim agreement was a public Egyptian declaration renouncing the use of force in the relationship between Israel and Egypt, and an assurance that all future disagreements would be settled by negotiation and peaceful means.

He conceded that there were grounds for concluding the value of verbal commitments by Egypt, but said the same would apply if they signed a non-belligerence pact or a peace treaty which Israel critics said should be the only basis for an Israel withdrawal in Sinai.

He reaffirmed that any settlement must end in direct negotiations between Egypt and Israel, even if the preliminary phases were indirect through the United States. The pact would have to be signed by the parties and made public, he insisted.

Mr Rabin said Israel was not interested in dragging out the negotiations but would not accept timetables or deadlines which the Egyptians tried to impose by threats.

He cited Egypt's threat to remove the United Nations peace-keeping force from Sinai as an attempt to pressure Israel and set a deadline for the agreement. "Sadat's threat turned out to be with an unloaded pistol," he remarked.

Earlier today, the Foreign Ministry called a press conference in Jerusalem. Officials said the Security Council resolution of the UNEF for three months was "a further step in the growing moral bankruptcy of the United Nations." It marked "the increased takeover by an unruly majority."

A spokesman claimed that the Security Council had legal authority to extend the mandate for six months without asking Egypt or Israel. It showed its traditional partiality by granting Egypt for agreeing to a three months extension after creating artificial tension and a deliberate delay to do so, but made no mention of Israel which had earlier agreed to a six months extension, the officials complained.

No betrayal of East Mr Ford claims

From Patrick B. Ryan
Washington, July 25

As he made preparations to leave for the Helsinki summit, President Ford insisted today that the security agreement will not "betray" East Europe.

Both he and Dr Kissinger, the Secretary of State, said the United States was making no "legal or moral" concessions to the Russians.

Dr Kissinger, meanwhile said this morning at a press conference that the House of Representatives vote to continue the ban on arms sales to Turkey was "a very sad and unfortunate decision."

He said that both he and President Ford had called Mr Suleiman Demirel, the Turkish Prime Minister, urging moderation in Turkey's reaction.

The vote on Turkish arms was one of two serious setbacks in foreign policy inflicted on the administration yesterday. In the other, House of Representatives committee recommended the cancellation of the sale of \$350m (£160m) in anti-aircraft missile systems to Jordan.

Congress feels that the weapons could be used against Israel and that it is intolerable for the United States to supply both sides in such a situation. Mr John Sparkman, the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said today that it might be possible to work out a compromise.

King Hussein has said that he wants the full \$350m. Congress will not give it, but it is possible that Jordan might now agree to a much smaller sale.

The press conference came the day before Dr Kissinger and Mr Suleiman Demirel met for the Helsinki summit. They will also visit Bonn, Warsaw, Bucharest and Belgrade.

Dr Kissinger said that the agreement might open up the way to liberalization of exchanges between East and West and improve international relations. He said that the Russians had been informed that interference in the internal affairs of Portugal would be considered a violation of the Helsinki agreement.

This is "Captive Nations Week", an annual event which is a deliberate effort to draw the American public's attention to the circumstances of central and east European countries.

The President said that the agreement meant tacit recognition of Russian hegemony in East Europe is meaningless. The agreement was not a surrender or enforceable. He said that if he shared people's reservations about the agreement, he would not be going to Helsinki.

By a fortunate coincidence the Senate voted today to give Romania "most favoured nation" status under the rules of the Foreign Trade Act. The Romanians have satisfied the Americans that they allow any Romanian Jews who wish to emigrate to do so, and therefore qualify for the status. It already applies to Yugoslavia and Poland, the other east European countries which the President is to visit.

Our Bonn Correspondent writes: President Ford accompanied by his wife and Dr Kissinger arrive here tomorrow night by special aircraft under strict security precautions. For security reasons helicopters will be President Ford's main means of travel during his stay, which lasts until Monday morning when he will depart for Warsaw.

M Giscard in Bonn for talks on recession

From Peter Norman
Bonn, July 25

President Giscard d'Estaing arrived in Bonn this evening for consultations in which he and Herr Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, will plan the strategy the two countries will adopt in combating the economic recession.

The talks, which are due to finish tomorrow, fall in the framework of the regular twice-yearly Franco-German consultations, but they have been brought forward by some few days as the French Government expects shortly to announce a large-scale economic programme, probably before the end of this month.

The West Germans believe that France will announce a programme of public spending amounting to 15,000m francs (about £1,600m). This is equivalent to about 1.5 per cent of the French gross national product and follows a reflationary package of similar size in April this year.

The French programme will be larger than the reflationary measures being considered by the West Germans and will differ in its emphasis. Sources in Bonn have forecast that either at the end of August or the beginning of September the Government will decide to spend some DM5,000m (about £1,000m), concentrating on a few specific sectors of the economy, such as the ailing construction industry. The French are expected to decide upon more general reflationary action.

Although the French and German packages will not be introduced at the same time, it is understood that Herr Schmidt wants to use this week-end talks to demonstrate the determination of both countries to act in the struggle against the recession. He feels this will help to reduce the present business pessimism, which in turn is holding back the new investment needed to create jobs.

The two leaders are almost certain to agree that public investments should be at the centre of their programmes, and that the projects chosen should be burdened with a minimum of follow-on costs.

They also are likely to discuss M Giscard d'Estaing's suggestion for a world monetary conference, where Herr Schmidt and the German point of view that, if it is held, it should be extended to cover other aspects of the world's economic problems; and that at present there are no alternative currencies or floating currency blocks.

It is also possible that the preliminary conference between the oil producers and consumers will become a subject for discussion, as could the French reservations about the Swiss franc joining the European joint currency float.

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Bonn rejects E German Baltic protest

From Our Correspondent
Bonn, July 25

West Germany has rejected an East German protest of July 16 about an incident in the Baltic Sea, a counter-protest, has lodged a counter-protest.

On July 15 a West German patrol boat, tooled an East German family of four on board in the international part of the Baltic Sea. At the request of its owner the patrol boat took to tow the yacht in which the family had escaped from Rostock. An hour later five East German naval boats chased the patrol boat, surrounded it and tried to force it into East German waters.

East Germany claimed in its protest that the West German patrol boat took the yacht by force of arms. The West German Note said that only because of the considerate reaction of the West German boat nothing more serious happened, and demanded that the East German Government should avoid similar incidents.

formation and Tourism and a construction engineer, the management was told to present the necessary documentation by Monday at the latest, under threat of closure.

The 200 Britons are among about 500 guests lodged at the one-star hotel, which has a crack in an outside wall. Yesterday's inspection was presumably prompted by reports in local and foreign newspapers suggesting that the hotel might be on the verge of collapse.

The Mallorca evening newspaper *Ultima Hora* asserted

that the hotel reopened without permission this year, and that it had been condemned after a previous safety inspection. The newspaper added that certain parts of the building are sealed off because they are unsafe, even today.

Built in 1971, the 329-room hotel is owned by Hoteles Agrupados, a subsidiary or affiliate of the big Spanish holding company, Rumasa. The crack in the wall has been there since the hotel opened. Guests take their meals at another hotel near by, run by the same

company; as the kitchen, dining room and other areas of the hotel are blocked off.

Yesterday, the manager of the Carrousel Hotel denied that he had received any order to evacuate. Today he was not immediately available to comment.

If the holidaymakers are forced to leave for safety reasons, it will not be easy for tour operators or local officials of the Ministry of Information and Tourism to find them a suitable place to stay; the entire Palma area is suffering from overbooking.

Spain ends emergency in Basque provinces

From Our Correspondent
Madrid, July 25

The emergency measures imposed on two Basque provinces three months ago, will end tomorrow, Señor Leon Herrera, the Minister of Information and Tourism, said in Madrid today.



Clapping the other side in. The recently-returned Soviet cosmonauts, Colonel Leonov and Mr. Khabarov (on the right), applauded the Apollo splashdown with other Soviet cosmonauts and the project director from the Russian side, Mr. K. Bushuev (far left).

Fumes scare puts Apollo crew in bed

Honolulu, July 25.—Doctors were keeping close watch over the Apollo astronauts today for possible delayed lung damage from yellow fumes that leaked into the spacecraft during its descent yesterday after the historic Soviet-American space mission. The fumes overcame at least one of the three crew. When the recovery aircraft landed, all three, Brigadier General Thomas Stafford, Mr. Vance Brand and Mr. Donald Slayton were smiling as they got into Navy cars for transfer to a hospital for observation. They

had spent last night in the carrier's sick bay. Dr. Charles La Pina, space agency physician at the New Orleans said doctors were watching the astronauts for signs of pulmonary edema—water in lung tissue—that might develop within 12 to 24 hours because of their exposure to the toxic vapour. "We were coughing and hacking pretty good in there," Mr. Slayton told doctors. After the splashdown, General Stafford, the Apollo commander, could be heard telling the recovery officials: "I think we passed out for about a minute there."

Dr. Royce Hawkins, deputy director of medical operations at the Johnson Space Centre said at first that Mr. Brand apparently passed out during the descent. Later he said that

a review of information from the ship showed that Mr. Brand became unconscious after the landing. The astronauts belatedly reported the fumes to doctors after a medical examination on the New Orleans which included a call from President Ford. Their examination was stopped at once and they were put to bed. Twelve hours after the splashdown doctors could detect no signs of lung damage. Earlier fears that the fumes were the result of a leakage of rocket propellant gases were not borne out by a careful examination of the spacecraft.—UPI.

Moscow, July 25.—Yevgeny Yevushenko, the poet, joined in the chorus of praise for the Soviet-American joint space flight with a poem in *Pravda*

today entitled "The link-up of hands". Here are excerpts, translated by Reuters. How great a burden fell from the eyelashes of the century, When spacemen took those steps towards each other, And each walked, as if on a living beam of light, towards a slightly shaking warm hand. Closing slowly as in a dance, above the spiders' webs of the Nile, of the Volga. Five fingers, like five American children met five children from Russia. You, Russia, gave birth to this day, you, Russia, gave birth to this day, Not to preen yourself or puff yourself up. In this world every man is a superpower, And the space flight of two nations is the flight of all nations.—Reuters.

Kenya expels church leader after warning to avoid political issues

From Charles Harrison Nairobi, July 25.—The American president of the International Council of Christian Churches (ICCC), was deported from Kenya and escorted to a flight for Rome today. Earlier this week, the Foreign Ministry had instructed the Council to avoid political issues after it had issued a statement praising Mr. Ian Smith, the Rhodesian Prime Minister, for upholding civilization and fighting communism. Today Dr. McIntire was reported in the Nairobi press as saying that the Kenya Government should apologize to him. He complained over the Government's treatment of his council, after the banding of a planned procession through Nairobi. From the start of its conference two weeks ago, the ICCC, which is supported by more than 200 Protestant churches,

many in America, had attacked the World Council of Churches, which is due to hold its conference in Nairobi later this year, for being influenced by communists and atheists. The Foreign Ministry's warning came after a statement from the ICCC press office which dealt mainly with Northern Ireland. It asserted that British policy there was hypocritical. Comparing Northern Ireland with Rhodesia, the statement, which was unsigned, said Mr. Wilson had at the Commonwealth Conference in Jamaica this year "lent his moral force to the future use of terrorism by African nationalists against the Smith Government". It continued: "In Rhodesia, a white minority in face of great hostility from black Africa, the communists block and the liberal democracies of the West, are determined to keep a firm grip on the reins of government and uphold Christian civilization in that part of Africa."

The statement also declared that in Rhodesia Mr. Wilson wanted majority rule, but in Northern Ireland he wanted the Catholic minority to have the "prevailing voice" in the executive, which would pave the way within 15 years to a united Ireland. Mr. Steven Pass, the ICCC information director, offered a verbal apology for having issued the "controversial statement". Dr. McIntire also apologized for the mistake of his information director. Rome, July 25.—Dr. McIntire said here that he felt he was deported from Kenya because he planned to quote in a speech comments by the exiled Soviet author Alexander Solzhenitsyn on religion in Russia. "I have not done a thing, it's just my ideas," he told journalists. "I think I'm the victim of the Kenya Government not wanting to offend the Solzhenitsyn matter."—UPI.

Peru takes over US mining company

From Jane Monahan Lima, July 25.—Faced with growing agitation by miners and the reluctance of private American owners to cope with it, Peru's Military Revolutionary Government has finally decided to nationalize the Marcona Mining Company. This is the country's only iron ore mining complex. Two hundred and fifty miles south of Lima, and the largest in the world on the west coast of Latin America. The nationalization was announced on television last night by General Jorge Fernandez Maldonado, the Mines Minister, one of the most radical generals in the administration of President Morales Bermudez. The company had been expected for some time. In 1971 the company's president was reported to have said that he would prefer to work with the state since this could be a guarantee of more industrial peace. Negotiations between the government and the company had been going on for about a year. Agitation by miners which precipitated the decision to nationalize, reached a climax in the past few months. It arose principally from a Government attempt to dominate the miners' communist trade union. This struggle gained national importance when all the main Lima newspapers with the exception of *Ultima Hora*, the most conservative, came out in defence of the communist union and denounced the government's attempts to win control. The exact details of the nationalization agreement with Marcona have not yet been announced. Marcona's exports of iron ore concentrates and pellets make up 80 per cent of the tonnage of all Peru's mineral exports.

In brief

Senate rejects Concorde ban

Washington, July 25.—The Senate today rejected an amendment that would have banned the Anglo-French Concorde from using United States airports. The amendment to a Transportation Appropriations Bill was defeated by 46 votes to 44. Today's move was one of several congressional attempts to ban the supersonic airliner for reasons of noise nuisance. The House of Representatives on July 10 rejected a similar amendment by 214 to 196.

Peron fight-back

Buenos Aires, July 25.—President Isabel Peron, who was confined to bed because of deteriorating health, will be back in the White House, a senior military source said last night. Although she was "in poor health", she did not intend to resign or take a leave of absence.

Namibia talks boycott

Windhoek, July 25.—The South-West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO) is boycotting the September constitutional talks on Namibia, describing them as a gathering of South African stooges and some misguided people intent on a tribalistic carve-up.

One month in office

Washington, July 25.—Mr. Stanley Hathaway, the Secretary of the Interior, resigned today on the ground of ill-health. He entered hospital on July 15 suffering from a nervous breakdown, barely a month after taking office.

Soviet crop failure

Moscow, July 25.—Western travellers returning from the Soviet Union's southern grain lands today spoke of crops seriously hit by drought and heat, with farmers reporting yields in places 25 to 30 per cent lower than last year's.

Flood toll up to 300

Delhi, July 25.—At least 300 people have died in monsoon floods which have made more than a million Indians homeless since early July. In the western state of Rajasthan heavy rains have forced the evacuation of villages.

Fights at airport

Tel Aviv, July 25.—Angry passengers clashed today with striking porters and baggage handlers who refused to unload aircraft at Ben Gurion international airport.

'New polarization' hope in S African party merger

From Our Correspondent Johannesburg, July 25.—South Africa's two white minority political parties today agreed to merge. The anti-apartheid Progressive Party, in existence since 1959, and the Reform Party formed in February this year, are to combine with the aim of wresting the chief opposition role from the United Party. Mr. Collyer Eglie, the Progressive Party leader, said the new party will demonstrate to millions of blacks in South Africa, who have no vote, that a growing number of whites are prepared to share the country with them on the basis of equal citizenship. It will be called the

South African Progressive Reform Party. Mr. Harry Schwartz, leader of the Reform Party, said the resolution to merge was the beginning of the end of apartheid in South Africa. The basic policy of the new grouping is power-sharing between black and white. Black homeland leaders have welcomed its principles. Mr. Eglie said that the decision to merge marked an end to the fragmentation of parliamentary opposition in South Africa. The new group has 11 seats in parliament against the 41 of the opposition United Party, and 122 held by the Nationalists.

Honeymoon gift to Navy by Mrs Andreadis

From Our Own Correspondent Athens, July 25.—Mrs Christina Onassis Andreadis, newly married daughter of the late shipping tycoon Aristotle Onassis, today called on Mr. Karamanlis, the Prime Minister, and announced her intention of contributing \$5m (£2.3m) to reinforce the Greek Navy.

She also stated that she was ordering a high speed vessel worth \$460,000 to be donated to the Navy. Last Tuesday she married Mr. Alexander Andreadis, the son of Professor Stratis Andreadis, a wealthy Greek banker and businessman.

Sculptor asks Finnish President for help

Moscow, July 25.—Ernst Neizvestny, the sculptor, who says he has been refused an exit visa unless he divorces his wife, today appealed to President Kekkonen of Finland to support his efforts to win permission to leave the Soviet Union. Today Mr. Neizvestny said he was appealing to Dr. Kekkonen because the Finnish President had once written to thank him for one of his works which had been presented to him by the Soviet Union. "My problem is a personal one but it becomes personal no longer when we are talking about freedom and human dignity," —Reuters.

Anguish of an artist, page 12

Revived party scents Whitlam fall

From Our Correspondent Melbourne, July 25.—One of the results of the upheaval in Australian politics after the election of the Whitlam Labour Government in November, 1972, has been the partial eclipse of the Country Party which has traditionally given the Liberal Party its support and therefore the numbers to govern since 1949.

Since the change of government at that time has been heard of the Country Party have been predictable and regular protests from Mr. Douglas Anthony, their leader, over such matters as national defence and the inevitable creeping tide of socialism. Indeed the only effective act of the Country Party recently was the announcement by Mr

Anthony during the snap election of last May that his party supported a rise in the price of petrol. This not only horrified Mr. Billy Snedden, the Liberal leader, but also arguably lost the election for the potential coalition with the Liberals. Since then Mr. Snedden has left the front bench and Mr. Malcolm Fraser, the new leader, has apparently kept Mr. Anthony and his colleagues in their place. For example Mr. Fraser did not even give them a look at the government papers regarding overseas loans until he had digested them himself, by which time Parliament was debating the issue. Now the Country Party has decided to polish up its image, realizing that its traditional role of ultra-conservative country populism is now outdated. The federal branch of the

Country Party recently changed its name to the National Country Party. It is believed that there was a strong lobby to drop the word "Country", but it was eventually decided that some of the conservative landowners among its supporters might take offence. In the states there has been a minor split. The Country Party branches of New South Wales, South Australia and Western Australia have decided to keep the old name. The branches of Queensland, Victoria and Tasmania have decided to change it to National Party. So now there are three names for the party and no discernible change in policy. But the confusion seems to have done little to dampen the recent enthusiasm of the party on scolding the imminent fall from power of Labour.

Catastrophe for UK and Labour if TUC agreement spurned

House of Commons. Charges and Grants Bill, the Government measure linked with the White Paper on Incomes Policies, was debated in committee today at 4.35 pm. The House had been considering it continuously since 3 pm yesterday. Thursday's sittings, which started at 2.30 pm, ended 26 hours and 26 minutes later and the business set for Friday—consideration of EEC matters—had to be postponed.

The main clause of the Bill, Clause 1 (Remuneration under existing agreements) was approved without a division at 6.30 am today after the Government had taken over 100 amendments from the TUC and Labour members of the House. Mr. Foot, Secretary of State for Employment, said that the Government was not prepared to carry out the agreement reached with the TUC. That agreement could be of incalculable importance in overcoming the economic problems of the country in the years ahead. It would be a catastrophe for the country and for the Labour movement if the Government were to spurn the agreement. It would be a catastrophe for the country and for the Labour movement if the Government were to spurn the agreement. It would be a catastrophe for the country and for the Labour movement if the Government were to spurn the agreement.

limit the period in which the powers would operate to six months instead of the 12 months proposed. He said that 45 months would be enough to decide whether the Government were right in saying that the policy would bring about inflation. His view was that it would not. Although there had been Government concessions to the Opposition there had been none to Labour MPs. We happen to be Labour supporters, but we are not Labour cheerleaders. Our views ought to be heard. We are saying to the Government that we take our views into consideration. Mr. Dell, Paymaster General (Birkenhead, Lab.) said the Government had decided that they would not carry out the policy of the TUC. He said that the Government were not prepared to carry out the policy of the TUC. He said that the Government were not prepared to carry out the policy of the TUC. He said that the Government were not prepared to carry out the policy of the TUC.

Employers cannot split pay rises in order to get round £6 wage controls

SIR GEOFFREY HOWE, Opposition spokesman on Treasury and economic affairs (East Surrey, C), made an amendment to decide the purpose of which, he said, were to extend the power under which the Price Code could be varied to enable that power to be used to set up some jurisdiction whereby questions about the extent to which remuneration exceeded the limits might be determined by the Secretary of State. It was not clear what this meant but it appeared as though the scope of legislative changes that might be made in the Price Code was being substantially extended. MRS SHIRLEY WILLIAMS, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection (Hertfordshire, Lab.), said the larger manufacturing and service firms in Categories 1 and 2 would be required to include in applications for price increases in future, or in periodic reports to the Price Commission, details of any pay settlement which affected their prices. The Price Commission would then seek the advice of the Department of Employment on whether the settlement conformed with the pay limit.

power to legislate by means of orders, rules, regulations or out subordinate instrument. MRS SHIRLEY WILLIAMS said there was nothing new in the amendment which went beyond what was already in the County Inflation Act 1973. If the intent of the amendment was to overrule that Act, that was not acceptable to the Government. If the amendment was trying to do something else, there would be no retrospective penalties the Government were happy to give that assurance. The Price Code was a piece of subordinate legislation contained in an Order under the County Inflation Act, 1973, and it would be unlawful to make further legislation without making a new law. There was no intention whatsoever to make rules, orders or regulations as suggested. The amendment was rejected by 222 votes to 192—Government majority 30. On Clause 3 (stand part), MRS POLWELL (South Devon, UUC) said there were no reasons but retaliation. It was something to punish a firm which had been punished. It was a reprisal which required a clause in the Bill. There was something inherently improper in what a clause did. The reason for this improper legislation was the desperate anxiety of Ministers to maintain that it was a voluntary and not a statutory policy. To keep up the pretence that it was voluntary and not statutory was making a mockery of the law and introducing injustice and unfairness which would strike as much at employers as at employees.

Mr Crosland explains how councils will be controlled

On Clause 4 (Power to reduce certain grants to local authorities). MR RALPHSON (Opposition spokesman on the Environment) (Bristol, C) moved an amendment to ensure that the Secretary of State could only reduce or withhold grants where a local authority had actually broken the pay limit. He said he wanted to remove the power of the Secretary of State to withhold grants from local authorities without any reason. There was an element of blackmail in the clause. It was a draconian power.

recoup itself year after year there might have to be more than two reductions made by the Government, although that was an unlikely situation. The clause was agreed to.

60p rent rise

On Clause 5 (Housing Subsidy—special element). MR RALPHSON said the aim of the clause was to moderate the rent increases in England and Wales by an £80m subsidy under the Housing Rents and Subsidies Act, 1975, payable to local authorities. The effect was that the average rent increase would be 60p per week rather than the £1 or more anticipated.

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MR GRAHAM PAGE (Crosby, C) said he wanted the use of this device to control local government. The public demanded that some reins should be put both on the money and on the numbers employed by local authorities. MR CRYER (Keighley, Lab.) said the recent 22p per cent increase in the cost of local authority services was a disaster. The public demanded that some reins should be put both on the money and on the numbers employed by local authorities. MR OAKES (Under Secretary, Environment) (Wiltshire, Lab.) said the amendment should be rejected. The words it sought to delete were in the Bill to give the Secretary of State power to reduce or withhold grants.

There were five million families in public sector housing and they were being asked to pay more for their homes. The clause was designed to help them in what would be a difficult year. Should there be any rent increases in the future, the Government had no right to limit the powers which the Government had in the Housing Rents and Subsidies Act. There would be no need to use them. MR CROSLAND, Secretary of State for the Environment (Grimsby, Lab.) said, for example, the cost of local authority services would be £100,000 over the prescribed limit. The local authority would have to find all of that money and a great deal of it would be paid to them. Furthermore, where that local authority attempted to recoup that cost by raising rates, the Government would have to make a further reduction in the rate of the council's rate. The clause was carried by 236 votes to 157—Government majority, 79.

Grant reduction

On Clause 6 (Stand part). MR CROSLAND, Secretary of State for the Environment (Grimsby, Lab.) said, for example, the cost of local authority services would be £100,000 over the prescribed limit. The local authority would have to find all of that money and a great deal of it would be paid to them. Furthermore, where that local authority attempted to recoup that cost by raising rates, the Government would have to make a further reduction in the rate of the council's rate. The clause was carried by 236 votes to 157—Government majority, 79.

MR ARMSTRONG, Under Secretary for the Environment

MR ARMSTRONG, Under Secretary for the Environment (North West Durham, Lab.), said the subsidy would be payable for one year only. It was meeting the needs of the Government's policy to fight inflation. There were five million families in public sector housing and they were being asked to pay more for their homes. The clause was designed to help them in what would be a difficult year. Should there be any rent increases in the future, the Government had no right to limit the powers which the Government had in the Housing Rents and Subsidies Act. There would be no need to use them.

Disclosure to shareholders as well as unions

House of Lords. The British Waterways Bill was read the third time and passed. The Industry Bill was again considered in committee. On Clause 22 (Persons to whom duty to disclose information applied). LORD CAMPBELL OF CROFT (C), moving an amendment which was considered with similar Liberal amendments, said it was to ensure that information was disclosed from this system of disclosure and that it should not be omitted to those who were trade unionists. The clause was carried by 119 votes to 79.

LORD ROCHFESTER (L) said it was less democratic that information should go to trade union representatives, who might in some cases be appointed rather than elected to their jobs, than that it should go to employee representatives who were elected by their colleagues on the basis of one man, one vote.

LORD HOUGHTON OF SOWERBY said the TUC must acknowledge its responsibility for the circumstances in which the obligations in the Bill could not be discharged. He said that the TUC must acknowledge its responsibility for the circumstances in which the obligations in the Bill could not be discharged.

LORD BESWICK, Minister of State for Industry, said he would accept that there was a need for the Bill to prevent any employer giving information to anyone voluntarily, and would accept the amendments. The Government hoped next session to bring in amendments to the Companies Act to facilitate certain developments.

LORD CAMPBELL OF CROFT said that with a view to deciding the matter on the report stage he would withdraw the amendment. The amendment was withdrawn and the clause agreed to. LORD BESWICK moved a Government amendment to provide a separate Clause of subsection 10 which stated that ministers and the Treasury should be able to obtain and provide access to information and analysis as specified in Schedule 4 (Disclosure of Information by Companies). He said it was a drafting amendment and was not intended to change the substance of the clause. LORD CAMPBELL OF CROFT said the Opposition did not agree with the amendment. He said that the amendment was a drafting amendment and was not intended to change the substance of the clause. LORD BESWICK said the amendment was a drafting amendment and was not intended to change the substance of the clause.

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Experts support Darwin's 1837 islands theory

By Henry Stunz Defence Correspondent. A theory formed by Charles Darwin more than 135 years ago may have been proved at last as a result of a joint service expedition to the remote Chagos Archipelago in the Indian Ocean. From soundings made with a simple leadline in 1837, the last time the archipelago was charted, Darwin came to the conclusion that the seven remain-

ing islands there were all that remained of the largest coral atoll in the world. First results from the 18-man expedition, which spent two months studying the islands including the gaunt inhospitable Danger Island in the extreme south, indicate that Darwin may have been at least partially right. He also assumed, however, that the coral was dead and slowly eroding away. But samples brought back by Dr

David Bellamy, a coral expert from Durham University and one of several scientists involved in this expedition, indicate that in this, Darwin was wrong. A preliminary report, including underwater shots of previously unexplored reefs, will be shown on BBC-2 in the series *The World About Us* on August 3. The archipelago lies 400 miles south of the RAF staging post on the island of Gan and about 100 miles north of Diego Garcia.

Apart from the scientific data which is now being made the subject of long-term study, including details of the birds and insects—the expedition brought back information which will be able the Ministry of Defence to update its charts of the region. The expedition, commanded by Commander E.A. Baldwin of the Royal Navy, included one of the largest and best equipped diving teams ever to leave Britain.

The lost chukka

by E C Hodgkin

A brief memoir of an eventful two months in India early in the Second World War

Norman Douglas wrote a book of autobiography, called *Looking Back*, around a collection of visiting-cards, or calling-cards to use his preferred term. All his life he put such cards as they reached him in a large bronze Japanese *brûle-parfum*, and his technique of retrospection was to pick a card at random out of the bowl and write what he could about its owner, which might be much or little—or nothing.

The other day a similar process of retrospection was started for me by the discovery in a forgotten box of a pile of visiting cards. But there was this difference—in my case the cards all bore the same name, and that name was my own. They were in fact the first visiting-cards I had ever owned, and they dated from February 1940.

That month found me at the depot of an infantry regiment into which I had just been commissioned and which, for reasons of security, I shall refer to as the Royal Loamshires. One morning I was summoned to the office of the adjutant who informed me that I was to take a draft of 30 men out to join the second battalion in India. I had already learned that it was a mistake to question military decisions, so I simply inquired whether there were any particular articles of equipment and so forth that I should take with me. The adjutant scratched his chin and considered. "You'll want a dinner-jacket, of course," he said. And get yourself some visiting-cards, made here: Indian printers usually make a nonsense of them. He considered further. "Better take a saddle and a scatter-gun," he added.

A what and a what? Was it for this that I had volunteered to play my part in ridding the world of fascism? Was I supposed to bag a Nazi right and left and come back to camp with them hanging from my cupper? I began to fear that at least one of those who for the past six months had been ruthlessly threatening to hang out their washing on the Suez-fritz line was going to find this work done for him by a dhoti.

Six weeks later I was in a small hot train on a branch line travelling through a hot and monotonous part of India. The scatter-gun was in a rack above my head; the visiting-cards in their original wrappings in the pouch of my webbing equipment; the saddle and dinner-jacket somewhere safely-beset in the luggage van. The journey had been uneventful, and correct. I had lost none of them, though it had been disconcerting at the start to be informed that one, a Private Kelly, was in close arrest for arson. I imagined this would mean that he would have to spend the voyage in irons, but though he looked permanently rather sad, probably because he was drawing no pay, life seemed no different to him than for any of the others. In any case he had made an attempt to jump overboard and to go to ground in the bays of Bombay.

Sitting in a first-class compartment, which contained four wicker chairs, a wicker table, ceiling fan, and a shower-bath, I began to savour the life of the raj. At each stop toward would come up, knock at the shuttered panel of the door, remove his cap, and inquire: "Permission to proceed, ah?" Permission granted, then a gracious nod of the head and we would go for a bit more slow, dusty miles.

reached in the early evening of the second day. A provost-sergeant took poor Private Kelly off to the guardroom, and an officer in jodhpurs and a Bentley greeted me. "I've got a bearer for you," he said. "You can sack him if he's no good." Forward out of the shadows came a figure of infinite dignity, with a long beard and on his head a confection of complicated starched cloth like a napkin prepared by a Victorian parlourmaid. No more could I have sacked Ali than Jeeves.

The Bertie-Jeeves relationship was quickly established. Deposited shortly afterwards at the bungalow which was to be mine, I discovered Ali already unpacking my clothes. How he had got them—and himself—there so quickly, I never discovered; perhaps it was a form of levitation. Anyway, he assured me that the correct wear for the mess that day, it being only a supper evening, was a dinner-jacket, and once I had this on he firmly fixed in the buttonhole of the jacket a small red-rosebud.

Where he had got this from I could not imagine. I had, even in the dark, seen enough of the surroundings of the bungalow to realize that no roses—or, indeed, anything at all—grew there. In whose garden did they grow? The commanding officer's? In any case they must surely be easily recognizable, and stealing roses out of the garden was, as anyone who has read *Beauty and the Beast* knows, fraught with grave risks. Besides, might it not be presumptuous and flashy for the most junior and irregular second-lieutenant to use such an adornment? As I wandered up to the mess I removed the rose from my buttonhole and put it in my pocket.

There was nobody in the mess anteroom but I was relieved to find that the bell worked and that the magic words "chota peg" produced the right stuff. By the time another officer put in an appearance I was feeling more confident. He, too, I was relieved to see, wore a dinner-jacket in the buttonhole of which was a red-rosebud. Within a couple of seconds I was sporting one too.

This officer appeared too exhausted for speech. Flinging himself into an armchair he was barely able to hold a copy of the *Sporting and Dramatic* in one hand and a whisky in the other. As more and more officers came in they too gave the impression of total exhaustion and were equally speechless, exchanging only a few words with each other, only two or three essential ones with the servants, and none with me. I began to fear that the daily life of an officer in India must be terribly exacting.

Next morning I was to discover my error. Though the

day's work started early, with a parade before seven o'clock, this was one which officers were not normally expected to attend. They would spend this hour developing that mysterious quality known as "an eye for country" by cantering over the featureless plain which extended without any visible limit in every direction around the town. Then came breakfast in the mess, followed by the climax of the day's proceedings—company drill. Here the company commander sat in judgment, flanked by his platoon commanders (standing) all looking as sternly disapproving of vice and crime as they could.

This daily judgment seat sounded all the more awful since each written charge, now that war had started, was preceded by the letters WOAS (When On Active Service), words which gave the impression that only an immediate firing squad—or perhaps, since this was India, being blown from a gun—would be adequate punishment. However, though wartime phraseology had arrived at the Royal Loamshires, peacetime practices had not yet departed. One offender, possessed presumably of a neater hand than most of his fellows and so conscripted into the officers' mess, I recall being charged: "WOAS absent from menu writing parade." Such a sin was hardly comparable with Danny Deever's, nor was it so rewarded.

But after company office there was really nothing to do. It was the hot season, before the monsoon broke, and in normal times as many officers as could would be far away on a course, acting as somebody's ADC, or best of all, sticking pigs. The symptoms of exhaustion which I had noticed on the first evening were caused, not by the weight of duties, but by ennui and too much polo. (The roses, incidentally, came from an enterprising contractor in the bazaar.)

Of course, these times were not normal; I was there to prove it. So it was that after a few weeks there was an unusual burst of activity: we were informed that all subalterns were to be subjected to a written examination, and all officers below field rank were to be taken to the capital of a neighbouring princely state for what was described as "an important tactical exercise."

The exact nature of the examination was not revealed. All the adjutant would concede was that the commanding officer would set it himself and that it would be "searching". So once again, as in the days of my OCTU training, my evenings were spent poring over King's *Revisions*, the *Manual of Military Law*, and other basic handbooks. Had there been a copy of Clausewitz around I would have boned up on him too.

I need not have worried—or,

rather, I should have directed my worries into other channels. The examination paper, when placed before us, managed to avoid not only strategy and tactics, but even, quite remarkably, any reference to the war whatever. "A tiger has been reported in P— state forest: to whom do you apply for permission to shoot it?" was one question. "The regimental contractor calls at your bungalow on Christmas Day and offers you a bottle of whisky and a box of cigars: what action do you take?" was another. The only faintly martial question was one concerning the regiment's role in the Battle of Quatre Bras. I realized, with gloomy foreboding, for the future of my military career, that I was going to be ploughed.

The important tactical exercise was less exacting. We were driven to the capital of the state in a bus, and entertained by the officers of the ruler's bodyguard to a large and prolonged luncheon. When we emerged into the brilliant sunshine it seemed difficult to see anything at all. Nevertheless, we were taken over by the chief of police, a smallish almost completely round man with a vast round face and a sunny smile, who conducted us to a crossroads and gathered us round him. "That," he said, pointing with his cane to a long low building, a few hundred yards away, "is the biggest textile factory in the town. Where you see the nice board is the main gate of the factory. And right here—"prodding with his cane in the dust and beaming round at us—"is a good place for a machine-gun."

After these excitement life resumed its normal course, though I would not wish to give the impression that I was a life of total idleness. There were visiting cards to be distributed to the homes of married officers and civilians, and every now and then there was the 24-hour grind of being an orderly officer.

Part of the orderly officer's duty was to visit the guard on the barrack gate in the middle of the night, the exact timing of his visit being naturally unknown, so that the guard remained on their toes waiting for it. But secrecy was not easy. The dress worn by the orderly officer was mess kit (red jacket, red cummerbund, white duck trousers) and sword. The guard post was over a mile from the mess, and the preferred way of getting there (except for Bentley owners) was on a bicycle. It is difficult to ride a bicycle wearing a sword. If you hold it in one hand the end is liable to get caught in the spokes, and nothing stops a bicycle more abruptly, or more dangerously, than a sword stuck in the wheel. The best technique is to let it tangle,

but this means that it bangs and rattles along the ground, so that your approach becomes as noisy and ominous as that of the Commandant in *Don Giovanni*.

Having crept up on the guard by surprise the orderly officer was supposed to test its efficiency by asking members of it one or more questions from a list with which he, and they, were supplied. Some of the questions were obvious, like what to do in case of fire; some came under the heading of general knowledge, like what was the name of the commanding officer. But there was one which had an esoteric flavour of its own: "What do you do if the Viceroy passes your post?"

As far as I knew the Viceroy was a thousand or more miles away, and the chances of his passing without warning a barrack in this obscure garrison town in the middle of the night were nil. Besides, what was he supposed to pass on? Hardly a bicycle, like the rest of us. An elephant, perhaps? Or perhaps, like Pippa and the Third Floor Back, he was just an inveterate and supernatural passer. This seemed, in spite of Lord Lindbergh's reputation for practical common-sense, the only explanation. India, I knew, had its secrets.

The opportunity to test out the question soon came. At three o'clock on a dark morning I clanked up to the barrack block. The guard were turned out, looking by the light of hurricane lamps little more than dark outlines. I pointed to one of them: "What do you do if the Viceroy passes your post?" There was silence. The corporal of the guard began to bristle, scenting reflected disgrace. "Wake yourself up, Private Kelly," he said, with quiet menace. "You know very well what to do if the Viceroy passes your post." The silence remained absolute, until I felt obliged to intervene. Here, unknown to me, was Private Kelly, presumably just released from detention and now heading for it again. He must be rescued. "All right, what is the name of the commanding officer?" There was an audible sigh of relief. He got the answer almost right.

From my point of view a more important unanswered question was how the next few years were going to be occupied. It was generally assumed that soon, as in the First World War, regular officers would be withdrawn to the European battlefields and replaced by irregulars like myself. I should therefore expect to stay in India as long as the war lasted, and it was tactically suggested that there were two ways in which I could increase my usefulness—I could learn to play polo, and I could learn Urdu.

It was Captain Winterborne-Stickland (like Dorset villages,

all officers in the Royal Loamshires—had double-barrelled names) who pressed the polo point. The Royal Loamshires had, he pointed out, a great reputation in the world of polo. They had been in the finals of the inter-regimental cup three times in the past 10 years: "It will be up to people like you," he said, "to carry on the reputation of the regiment." I felt keenly the solemnity of the moment. It reminded me of the Jesuit Director's interview with Stephen Daedalus—"Have you ever felt that you had a vocation?"—and like Stephen Daedalus I was both awed and flattered. Then Captain Winterborne-Stickland lowered his voice and became even more confidential: "As a matter of fact I've got rather more ponies in training than I actually need, and there's one I think might suit you for a start. Why not come down to the warden tomorrow and knock a ball about? Come come—this was not Stephen Daedalus; it was Soapy Sponger."

The less said about the next evening, on the maidan the better. The animal I was being offered looked larger than anything going by the name of pony should. I had been thinking of something more of the Shetland build. And no sooner was I on his back than he charged off towards a game of polo then in progress, reasonably thinking that this was where he was meant to be. Our intrusion into the game was as dramatic as that of Castor and Pollux in the Battle of Lake Regillus, except that the Heavenly Twins acted for the benefit of one side, whereas we were equally disconcerting for both. I decided to concentrate on Urdu.

The language teacher, or munshi, was, like the pony, larger than I had expected. He looked a little like the Aga Khan, whom he emulated to the extent of wearing correspondent shoes, though the rest of his clothing was flowing and white. After introducing himself he lit a gold-tipped cigarette and drew from his bosom a fat leather wallet held together by an elastic band. Caring carefully at its contents he extracted one piece of paper which he handed over in silence, staring hard at my face for the first symptoms of stupefaction. It turned out to be a letter from a Captain M— thanking the munshi for successfully preparing him for the higher interpreter's examination. "Brigadier," said the munshi. "He is now brigadier." I expressed amazement. Another chit was produced, and then another and another. The entire army in India, it appeared, had good cause to thank the munshi for helping them along the road to advancement.

His success was due, the

The author, newly commissioned in an infantry regiment, found himself attempting to rid the world of fascism with the aid of a dinner jacket, visiting cards, a saddle and a scatter-gun.

munshi explained, to a system. Instead of giving his pupils lists of words and grammar to learn he gave them useful ready-made sentences. Here were some for me: "The Director of Railways is my friend: I will invite him for tiffin." "The Viceroy (him again) is a good man and the ruler of India." "Hitler is a scoundrel: all the people of India despise him." My munshi is called Nureddin Hassan and is highly educated."

In the second lesson I discovered that in Urdu the same word means "but" and "crocodile", and there is only one word to do for "yesterday" and "today".

Yesterday, and yesterday, and Creeps in this petty pace from day to day, To the east syllable of recorded time; And all our tomorrows have lighted foot.

The warden was to be sent home. Crocodile me no no crocodiles.

In the third lesson the sentences became more elaborate, even introducing the conditional: "If you do not return to your homes immediately I shall once again fire." Good stuff. "Who have we got on the frontier?" "South of Peshawar, sir, the tribes have risen. But in the north Hodgkins are keeping them quiet. Speaks all the dialects, you know."

The fourth lesson took place on May 11. In the morning we had heard on the wireless of the German invasion of the Low Countries and the formation of Churchill's coalition government. It became hard to concentrate.

Before the time came for the fifth lesson we received news that six battalions, including our own, were to be sent home. The Royal Loamshires, who, except for a handful of modernists like Private Kelly and myself, had none of them seen a Bren-gun or a three-inch mortar—or even, for the matter of that, a 15-cwt truck—were to become a vital vanguard in the backbone of the defence of the British Isles against the invading Nazi hordes.

Few can have received this news with greater relief than myself. They had been an eventful two months but, I felt, long enough. I was without regret that I could say goodbye to Ali and Nureddin Hassan, adding one more chit to their collection. Nothing more would now be heard of the commanding officer's examination. I could forget about treading in the footsteps of John Lawrence and Years-Brown. I could flog the scatter-gun and saddle. But I could keep the visiting-cards as a souvenir.

And yet... On the voyage home Private Kelly jumped ship at Cape Town but was picked up by the military police before he sailed again. He therefore re-entered Britain, as he had left it, in close arrest. Later he ran off to Ireland for three months but came back and gave himself up. At this particular court-martial—so far from being the first or, I should imagine, the last in his career—he asked for me to act as his defending officer. At one interview I inquired, as a matter of interest, how he thought things in England compared with what he had seen in India. A slow smile spread across his face. "Ah," he said, almost with animation. "Give me India every time. That was what I call real soldiering."

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The man
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AS CHIEF

Under

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Gardening

Raking over the corpse

At time of year the garden, thoughts are very much on the weeds. We hold a minor post mortem almost every day—the weeds should have been plucked 10 days earlier as they grew too large in the row the seed bed. Note for next year: sow the cabbage or brassica family broadcast rather than in a square seed bed in rows.

There were a bit slow with sowings of cabbages, and the cress will be a little later than usual. But no matter, our cabbages when they finally are will still be worth a lot of money as it seems vegetables are still in demand. On Monday, lettuces were costing 10p to 12p each, tomatoes 25p to 27p a pound, cucumbers 15p each.

On the credit side we have really kept on top of the weeds and diseases this year. I have mentioned the new sprays we have been using, but not the latest model of the Turbair, the quite revolutionary sprayer which, I am proud to say of a British invention, is making large sums for us in the export market.

When the Turbair was first marketed, it seemed to be a superb tool for large nurseries, market gardens, parks, and the largest of private gardens, but its cost could only be justified if it was used on large scale spraying operations. But now, although it is certainly not any cheaper, I think anyone who has to cope with a fairly large garden—an acre or more—with paid labour help, should seriously consider a Turbair.

seriously with a large garden with minimal help should be even more interested in this machine. Conventional sprayers, either the knapsack type or the type you pressurize by standing them on the ground and pumping up the pressure by hand, hold only about two gallons of spray. They have to be filled several times every time you take them out. It takes time to mix up the spray. And finally, it is difficult to spray fruit trees 12 feet high with normal portable sprayers.

But with the Turbair Sprayer, a machine powered by rechargeable batteries, you can direct a fine misty spray up to this height and give a splendid control of pests and diseases. The spray turns a thimbleful of liquid into 20 million droplets every four seconds. There is no messy mixing of spray with water. A quart bottle of the spray chemical screwed onto the machine does the work

of 100 gallons of normal spray—all in about 20 minutes. There are a dozen different chemicals for use in the sprayer to control pests and diseases. There are also chemicals for use in promoting animal health.

Many of our readers, I know, are concerned with the maintenance of large gardens, and I would suggest they write for particulars of the various Turbair machines—battery, mains electric and petrol. Looking ahead I can only see higher labour costs, higher costs of machinery, so I think now is the time to consider very seriously the advantages of such mechanization.

The model I think best suited for the large garden, the Sprite, costs about £66 (VAT extra) complete with rechargeable batteries. The quart size bottles of various chemical sprays cost from about £1.30 to £1.83 each, and one quart will spray up to

an acre depending on the type of crop. If you have to do any appreciable amount of spraying, it is not up to the cost of spraying machines, liquid sprays and labour spent in mixing and applying the sprays, and compare these costs with those of the Turbair. Frankly, I could not run my garden the way I do without the Turbair, a permanent sprayer, irrigation system, and chemical weed-killers.

Quite apart from the economics of this revolutionary system of spraying, there is the satisfaction the operator derives from such a simple system. With conventional sprays and sprayers there is tedious mixing of the noxious, and the physical labour of humping large quantities of liquid about. With the Turbair you just pick the machine up, switch on, and walk round your plots spraying as you go. The

elimination of frustration alone is worth a lot. Now for the small grain of comfort. Solid dried blood, which has been found to be possible to obtain for some time, is now available again. Many gardeners have used blood as a quick fix for some of their tomato crops, and it is a good fertilizer for all crops, especially when they are old and eventually to be harvested.

We have used the more expensive and less effective blood and horn fertilizer, but now we can use blood again. It should be available in good garden shops, but in case of difficulty contact A. W. Mackay & Sons Ltd., Stephenson Street, Caning Town, London E16 4SA, who can supply it in quantities of 14lb and multiples thereof. At this time of year flowering shrubs make a smaller contri-

bution to the garden than they did in the spring, and will do in the autumn. Also many summer flowering trees and shrubs are white flowered—olea, philadelphus, romneya, and some of the hebes. But there are still plenty of trees and shrubs—the various forms of Buddleia davidii from pale lavender to deep purple, and the richly coloured reddish purple variety Royal Red which will be very near to infringing the law of copyright.

Of course we have the lavender, which is the best selection for edging, and the best selection for lavender have come across recently. It is a new variety, Thomas C. (London Nur-

series) Ltd. Carlisle's Corner, Twyford, Reading, Berkshire. They have over a dozen varieties. The various hypericums are at their best now—H. Hidcote and the neat H. forrestii also with golden flowers should grace any garden.

Hydrangeas too are coming in now, along with various dahlias, mainly varieties of daboecia, Erica citraris, E. tetralix and E. vagans. This is a good time to go garden or nursery visiting and seeing just what fine shrubs we can have in bloom in the height of summer.

Roy Hay

Saturday Bazaar

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The man who came to dinner



At first, he just sat there. Waiting for us to serve the wine. As it turned out, he was a most amiable fellow who quite flooded us with his knowledge of fine food. Of Liechtenstein, in particular. He explained how these wines must be fresh and well-balanced, and on named one or two quite famous brands which, it appears, we neither had nor knew. He particularly recommended the Liechtenstein we were serving, Hanns Christof from the House of Deidesheim. And it wasn't because they'd put his picture on the label.

Hanns Christof

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A fresh consignment of this fine French wine has just arrived. A blanc de blancs of Sauvignon, a blanc de blancs of Sauvignon, a blanc de blancs of Sauvignon. £4.95 doz. 12 doz £16.36 24 doz £32.00. 36 doz £47.00. Delivered free U.K. mainland.

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مكثان الأصيل

Liberia

President sets tireless pace

by Leonard Buckley



President Tolbert: "total involvement" theme.

France
neyards in
estroyer

your acquaintance
William R. Tolbert,
President of
Liberia, and you are struck
by the astonishing
the man. Now well
ixties, he seems, if
even younger than
when he took office
Yet the record of
ties in between is
Ministers much
him in years have
the wayside, not
iciency or indiscre-
just because they
Keep up.

It is not surprising. He
to Monrovia late
ning from a round
engagements up-
ply to leave at
down with his en-
one of his fre-
to foreign parts.
nop their brows in
y hear and try to
energetic. If they
ous for advance-
had better try.
Tolbert is apt to
a man at 8 am
to find him at his
en to him address-
national Legislature
After part of three
speech is a tour
Yet within minutes
life and soul of
festivities that
the night.

Julius Caesar who
one letter, write
ten to a third and
fourth—and all at
the same time?—
analysts attending a
meeting in one of
Tolbert's experi-
open government
surprised to find
ing the agenda
Discussion on the
deviously making
table to a suc-
Presid bringing his
phrases for his
rally.

volvement of
—Tolbert—the
e he uses as a
to all Liberians

—springs partly from the
nature of the man and partly
from the nature of his job.
He is essentially a person of
enthusiasm, more ready to
graze than to frown. After
his long years of waiting in
the wings as Vice-President
under Dr William Tubman,
it was characteristic of the
man that he should take the
centre of the stage with alac-
rity and throw himself at
once, without more ado, into
the task of putting his own
ideas into practice.

After all, he was not short
of them. He would lead the
nation to a self-sufficiency
of food. He would lift it
from mats to mattresses. He
would keep the door open
for foreign investors and en-
courage their cooperation in
developing his country but
at the same time he would
see to it that his country
drew fair benefit from its
natural wealth. More par-
ticularly he would be talking
to the townsmen and tribesmen,
setting his face against the
notion that Liberia was a
nation entirely descended
from freed American slaves
and extending within his
own frontiers that concept
of the brotherhood of man
to which he had long been
committed beyond them.

Such plans—the list is by
no means exhaustive—were
bound to keep President Tol-
bert well occupied. But a
president of Liberia would
be occupied enough with no
plans at all. The office loads
its holder with duties. Osten-
sibly a democracy though in
practice a one-party state,
Liberia shapes its presidency,
like its constitution, in the
American mould. But local
considerations add their com-
plications. The Government
has its full panoply of
ministries but the custom of
detailed executive supervi-
sion by the President is
deeply ingrained. There has
been almost no tradition of
delegation.

President Tolbert is doing
something to counteract that.
He has handpicked able and
often extremely young men
to head some of his depart-
ments. But in the formative

years of his new Liberia
they, too, need his help and
attention. In turn they are
hampered by the dearth of
competent officials of the
middle rank. Life in Liberia
is hectic for the men at the
top.

For Dr William R. Tolbert,
in fact, there is something else.
To the western qualities of
the office there are added
the characteristics of the
African headship. You can
see this in the supplicants
who, through the executive
mansions and in the rever-
ence, he is accorded.

He may be. Liberia's
elected President but he is
also its paramount chief.
This is something intangible
but significant. In his capi-
tal city you look across from
your hotel to a great
at the same time he would
with him up river beside the
drew fair benefit from its
natural wealth. More par-
ticularly he would be talking
to the townsmen and tribesmen,
setting his face against the
notion that Liberia was a
nation entirely descended
from freed American slaves
and extending within his
own frontiers that concept
of the brotherhood of man
to which he had long been
committed beyond them.

Chief executive, political
leader, an African—the
character is still not com-
plete. For it is worth
remembering, too, that Presi-
dent Tolbert is also an or-
dained Christian minister
who has been president in
his day of the Baptist World
Alliance. The open windows
of Liberia often carry his
voice on the radio. Mostly
his subject is some govern-
mental matter. But on Sun-
days he will be preaching a
sermon.

It is no doubt the Chris-
tian element in his make-up
that determines his attitude
to what he likes to call "our
one world". If you want
his view of foreign affairs
you will find it in one signi-
ficant sentence of his annual
message this year to the
legislature. "We applaud
the dauntless efforts of the
United States of America
and the Soviet Union to
help create and sustain a
climate of political under-
standing. The view, you
see, is strictly unbiased, im-
partial and uncommitted.

There, first, is the nub of
the President's foreign
policy. Liberia is the oldest

independent state in Africa
and the President knows
that, although it is tiny with
scarcely more than 1,500,000
people, its independence
gives it strength. It belongs
to no ex-colonial grouping.
It is part of no power block.
More than once in the inter-
national conventions this has
allowed it to have the cast-
ing vote. In promoting the

interests of Liberia the Pre-
sident knows that he can
treat with whom he will.
This is obvious in his atti-
tude to the great powers. The
influence of the United
States in Liberia is historic
and unabated. How could it
be otherwise when Firestone,
for instance, has there the
biggest rubber plantation in
the world? Yet lately the
involvement of Liberia with
the Soviet Union has been
increasingly noticeable.

There is a Russian Amba-
sador these days in Mon-
rovia. Links between the two
countries have varied from
arrangements for the training
of Liberian technicians in
Moscow to a tour of Liberia
by a Soviet cultural troupe.

The United States and the
Soviet Union, however, are
only two of the nations with
which President Tolbert is

concerned. In 1974 his
Government established new
diplomatic relations with the
Governments of Cuba, Bar-
bados and Guyana. Meet-
ings at technical or minis-
terial levels apart, his own
personal travel abroad and
entertainment of foreign
leaders at home almost pass
belief. Guinea, Algeria,
Saudi Arabia, Libya,
Romania, Zambia, Lesotho,
Malawi—his destinations in
just two or three months
read like a gazetteer.

Before you have digested that
group there is another to
follow. All the while, in be-
tween, the President is the
host for state visits. Sweden,
The Gambia, Guinea Bissau,
The Netherlands—the digni-
taries come and go.

Often there is practical
purpose in the travelling.
The President quarters the

globe for good will but also
for the trade and investment
that will follow. But for a
tiny nation the immediate
surroundings are especially
important. Good will and co-
operation there are vital. A
particular trade or industry
may not even be viable un-
less neighbours, while main-
taining their independence,
act for the common purpose
in concert.

President Tolbert is well
aware of this. Nor are his
endeavours in this direction
limited to such publicized
ventures as Mano River
Union between Liberia and
Sierra Leone or the Econo-
mic Community of West
African States in the estab-
lishment of which Liberia
has played a substantial part.
You will find Liberia explor-
ing sources of cement with
a neighbour. The country has
become a full member of the
West African Examinations
Council.

However, it would be quite
wrong to assume that all of
President Tolbert's travels
and all of his international
contacts serve material ends.
There is another facet of his
foreign policy. When he
spoke in that annual message
of nations creating and sus-
taining a climate of political
understanding he was men-
tioning something that is
dear to his heart. He be-
lieves passionately that the
problems of the world must
be resolved by peaceful
means. He believes passion-
ately that the suppression
of Africans and any
others must be ended. He
is convinced that he has a
role to play in bringing these
happy consummations to
pass.

In throwing himself so
wholeheartedly into the pro-
paganda of these ideas, the
President certainly seems to
be free of any self-seeking.
This, after all, is a man who
at no little personal risk
attempted to bring peace to
the world in the Biafran war.
When, too, Liberia was in-
volved in the now well-
known déstente operations of
South Africa it was signifi-
cant that, unlike some other
African leaders, President
Tolbert had no material pro-
fit in view.

He was, it seemed,
genuinely concerned to ease
the situation and to help his
brethren in the south. When
Mr Vorster expressed a wish
to contribute financially to
Liberia, the President's reply
was characteristic and de-
serves to be repeated: "With
reference to aid, I would like
to say that for the time
being we should carry out
the divine injunction: 'First
seek the kingdom of Heaven
and its righteousness and all
things will be added to you.'
If by our efforts success is
achieved in solving the diffi-
cult problems facing our
brothers and sisters in south-
ern Africa, then and only
then will we be prepared to

accept legitimate benefits of
mutual interest."

The Christian charity Presi-
dent Tolbert urges abroad he
can also practice at home.
But he does not shrink from
Old Testament retribution
where he thinks it necessary.
In the apparently isolated
case of three men convicted
and sentenced to death for
allegedly conspiring to kill
him and his brothers he re-
leased the three after they
had been a few months in
jail, pardoned them and ad-
monished them in his biblical
way to go and sin no more.
But some eyebrows have been
raised as he has ordered the
execution of convicted
murderers, which is some-
thing his predecessor never
got round to doing.

This determination, how-
ever, reflects an anxiety.
Liberia has had its share of
adult crime, juvenile delin-
quency, careless driving and,
lately, a drug problem. "I
shall not hesitate to sign
death warrants for convicted
murderers who, while under
the influence of narcotic
drugs, kill innocent people,"
the President told the legis-
lature. His emphatic asser-
tion brought much applause.
However, it would be
wrong to exaggerate these
matters just as it would be
wrong to put too much store
on minor outbursts of "rude"
trouble. The President has
had his share of these, even
though he has been more
reluctant than most to listen
to the young—his precious
jewels as he calls them—and
to give them their head.

Ill-digested political theo-
ries, impatience with the rate
of progress—these matters
can influence students in
Liberia as they do elsewhere.
Moreover, the educated class
there is small. Everyone
knows everyone. A particu-
lar young man and his
friends may be disgruntled
because an older relative has
fallen from favour.

They may even be resent-
ful that the easy life to
which they looked forward
has been replaced by a new
call for efficiency and work.
One way and another Dr
Kesselly, the Information
Minister, has found it neces-
sary lately to warn the
country against apostles of
doom and professional vagabonds
who go about confus-
ing and discrediting govern-
ment policies and pro-
grammes while they contrib-
ute nothing to the struggle
to bring speedy develop-
ment to the country. There
again, though, one should not
give too much weight to such
mischief-makers. This genial
country is a land of talk.

Certainly President Tol-
bert has had his critics. He
inherited an administration
in which the surface stability
covered much lassitude and
corruption. In reforming it
he has inevitably met some

resistance from reaction-
aries. The prominent
figure who must now pay
his taxes does not welcome
the new regime. Much has
been accomplished since the
President took office. The
stability has been main-
tained and much of the
corruption rooted out. The
foreign concessions have
been equitably reviewed.
Trade and industry have
been stimulated. So has
agriculture, and the coun-
try's financial reputation
abroad, so vital to invest-
ment, has been enhanced.

In all this President Tol-
bert was fortunate until
recently in having with him
his brother, Stephen, as
Finance Minister. Stephen
Tolbert rode shotgun and
drew much of the fire. Many
of the sterner measures,
particularly over tax enforce-
ment, were at his instigation.
He inevitably incurred some
unpopularity but he un-
doubtedly brought Liberia
much of its prosperity. Now
he is dead. He was killed in
a flying accident in April.
Stephen Tolbert was an
outstandingly successful
businessman. Brother Willie
is an astute politician. They
were an excellent pair.
Liberia has yet to realize
how fortunate it was to have
them working together for
it. Such a combination is
ideal for a developing coun-
try.

Ironically, the death of
Stephen Tolbert and the sym-
pathy that engulfed the Pre-
sident as the result of it will
have enhanced the Presi-
dent's prestige. But he must
now go it alone. He has to
sustain the economy in diffi-
cult times. He has to keep
the country on its firm lines
of progress. He must see
to it that the corruption does
not creep back.

There are other, less tangi-
ble tasks. At home this
energetic President in his
short-sleeved sweat-suit has
still to oust the last remnants
of the old brigade and to
extend to everyone the new
spirit of effort and enterprise
in which his successes to date
have brought him his dearest
pride. Abroad he has still to
dispel from the minds of
some who do not know his
country that image of it
which his predecessor left
behind. It shows Liberia as
a frock-coated banana repub-
lic flying a flag of conven-
ience.

President Tolbert's new
Liberia deserves better than
that. It brims with ideas. It
has lessons both for Africa
and for the world. You can
not really ignore it. After
all, it does have that rubber
plantation. You may regret
that the plantation was there
in the old days. But did you
know that Liberia has just
shipped out to the world
from one of its mines in a
decade enough iron ore to
build a railway to the moon?

Foreign policy: open door is the key

by J. Milton Greaves

ation of historical
to-economic factors
ys guided the for-
ly of Liberia: the
tion of its national
ity and territorial in-
the right of self-
sation for all peoples
eration with all na-
a basis of equality
al respect.

ag that this can
e only in an atmos-
peace and coopera-
ria has based its
with other countries
eign equality, non-
nce in the internal
other independent
respect for human

also adheres to the
dinal principles that
the United Nations,
nization of African
ad the non-aligned
nations.

open policy" forms
rant corporations of
relations with other
nations. In addition to vast
timber and other
resources, the coun-
try such attractive
nt incentives as tax-
days, non-restric-
expatriation of profits,
onal commitment to
ept of private enter-
d, above all, a stable
climate which guar-
the protection of
investment against
zation.

1972 Liberia, under
nistration of Presi-
lam R. Tolbert, has
direction in foreign
While seeking to
and maintain cordial
with its traditional
f the western world,
so worked to forge
of cooperation and
p with Eastern
and Third World

ore balanced and
ed approach is not
in of one socio-econ-
om for another but
based on President
belief in the family
nd Liberia's position
continuing search
l détente a policy of
men for smaller
s consistent with gen-
l and political reali-

ent Tolbert has
ted much time to
king efforts to
and is actively en-
in new strategies
the fulfilment of
desire for a speedy,
lasting solution to
blems of Southern
As the oldest inde-
republic in Africa,
harbours a feeling of
al responsibility and
lent to its neigh-
even at the risk of

being misunderstood, Presi-
dent Tolbert agreed to invite
Mr Vorster, Prime Minister
of South Africa, to Monrovia
last February for talks on
Rhodesia, South-west Africa
and South Africa. Mr Vor-
ster was preceded by Bishop
Abel Muzorewa, head of the
African National Council in
Rhodesia, Chief Gatsha
Buthelesi, recognized leader
of the Zulus and one of the
most effective black leaders
in South Africa, and Mr Sam
Njoma, president of the
South-west African (Nami-
bian) Peoples' Organization,
the only liberation movement
recognized by the OAU.

After Mr Vorster, leaders
of the Pan African Congress
and the African National
Congress of South Africa
were also invited to Mon-
rovia.

Partly as a result of
Liberia's exercise in dialogue
and détente with South
Africa, some progress has
been made in the area, in-
cluding the release of
nationalist leaders in Rhod-
esia and the elimination of
certain forms of racial dis-
crimination in South-west
Africa.

Good neighbourliness also

forms an important part of
Liberia's foreign policy. In
this context relations with
Guinea, Sierra Leone and
Ivory Coast have been
strengthened and the Mano
River Union with Sierra
Leone which leaves room for
other members, forms an
integral part of Liberia's
development programme.

Liberia is also one of the
prime movers behind the
newly formed Economic
Commission of West African
States (ECOWAS). Mon-
rovia was the venue for the
ministerial conference which
drew up the treaty adopted
by the ECOWAS heads of
state in May in Lagos.

Realizing that regional co-
operation is the only realistic
means of achieving
balanced economic growth,
Liberia has been active in
promoting unity in Africa
since 1959 when it acted as
host at the Sanniquellie
conference which brought
together Presidents William
V. S. Tubman, Sékou Touré
of Guinea and the late
Kwame Nkrumah of Ghana.
Two years later the his-
toric Monrovia conference
led to the formation of the
OAU in Addis Ababa, the

parent organization for co-
operation among African
countries. Liberia also
actively participates in other
regional cooperative en-
deavours including the West
African Rice Development
Association, which has its
secretariat in Monrovia.

It was a signatory to the
agreement reached in Lomé,
Togo, in February between
the African, Caribbean and
Pacific group of countries
(ACP) and the European
Economic Community which
is designed, among other
things, to bring about a more
equitable and humane inter-
national monetary and econo-
mic order. It is Liberia's
viewpoint that the gravest
threat to international peace
and security comes not from
a possible conflict between
East and West, but from the
yawping chasm of inequity
which exists between the
"have" and "have-not"
nations.

Liberia has, therefore, con-
sistently worked for the
bridging of that chasm
through a more realistic and
equitable arrangement be-
tween primary producer and
primary consumer nations.

People answered call for cash

by Edward Kesselly

When Dr Tolbert became
President of Liberia in July,
1971, the country was facing
a budgetary deficit of about
\$8m (about £3.2m). Spel-
ling out the implications of
that in his first annual mes-
sage, in December, he said:
"Even with an immediate
mobilization of efforts to in-
crease revenue collections
and to cut back on avoidable
expenditure, the nearly \$8m
estimated deficit may, at
best, be reduced to about
\$4m."

"This deficit of approxi-
mately \$4m, or at whatever
level it is finally confirmed,
will have to be carried for-
ward to 1972, in the form of
unpaid vouchers, short-term
borrowings from banks and
short-term borrowings from
autonomous government cor-
porations. Not only do we be-
gin the new administration
under these financially diffi-
cult domestic circumstances,
but we are threatened by a
very uncertain financial and
economic situation all over
the world. Should the econo-
my deteriorate into a
serious recession in 1972—a
possibility that cannot be
eliminated—then our finan-
cial situation could become
very grave; we would have
passed out of our present

bad weather into a raging
storm."

Against that background
and the determination to
handle the situation without
incurring further external
debts, President Tolbert
launched, as one of many res-
cue measures, a national
fund-raising rally in August,
1972, calling on Liberians to
raise \$10m through voluntary
contributions.

Friends of Liberia at home
and abroad joined in the
efforts, and about \$4.4m was
raised in nine months. Con-
tributions have continued to
come in since then.

Raising the money was not
a completely pleasant ex-
ercise, but today Liberians are
surprised and gratified by
what their cash contributions
are doing in the development
of their communities. Rally
money is funding projects
throughout the country, in-
cluding clinics, hospitals,
schools, and farm-to-market
roads and bridges.

A total of about 130 miles
of roads covering seven po-
litical subdivisions—three
territories and four counties
—have been constructed. A
multi-purpose junior senior
high school was constructed
in New Kru Town, a suburb
of Monrovia.

A 50-bed hospital was con-
structed in Grand Gedeh

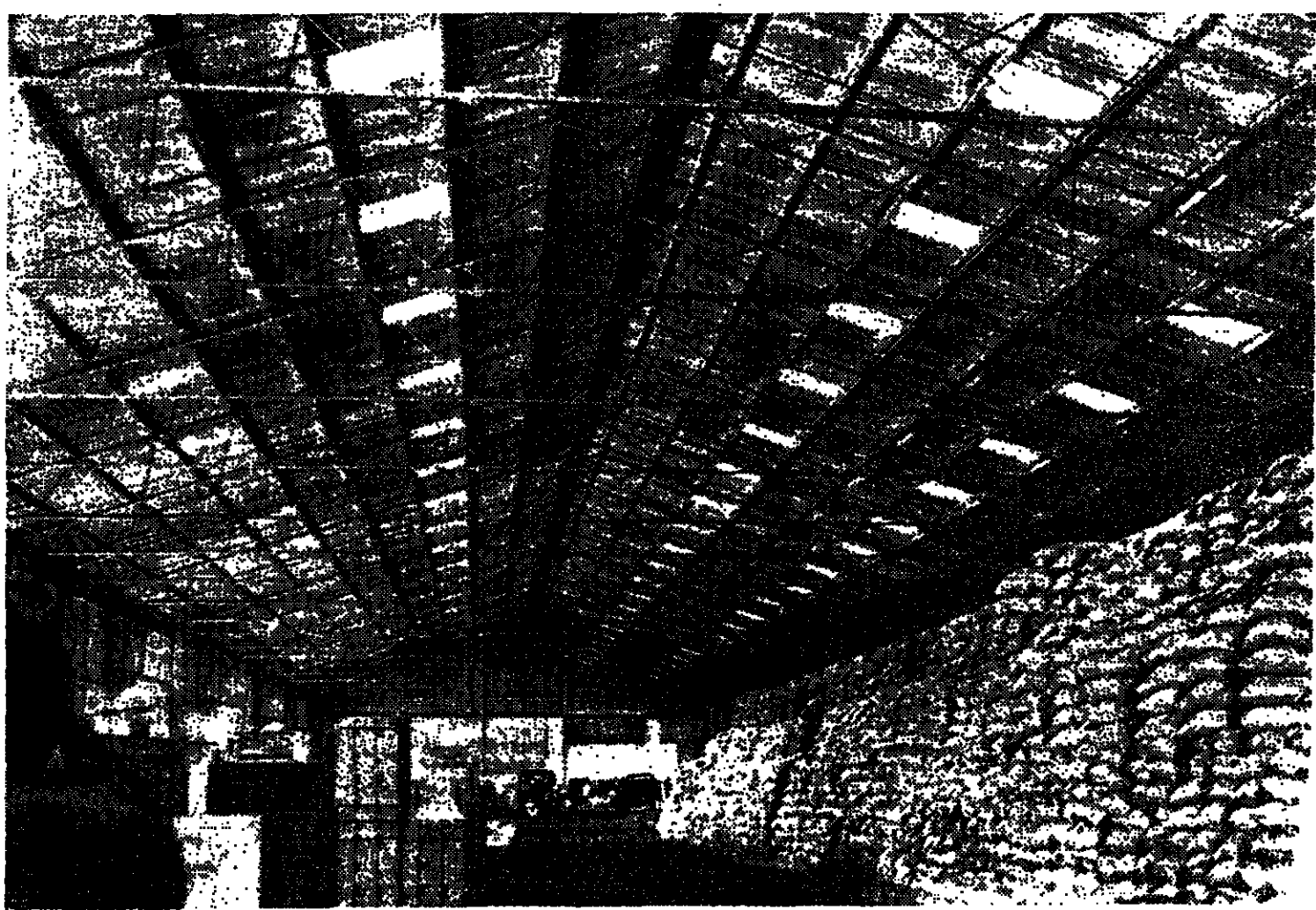
country, and another is
under construction in Lofa
county. Two six-bed clinics,
one in Barneville and the
other in Marshall, have been
completed. Two modern com-
munity markets are being
constructed in Kakama and
Monrovia. A modern 300ft
bridge spans the Boriola.

There is more to be accom-
plished with rally funds.
More significant, however,
has been the national con-
sciousness which the rally
aroused, a spirit of sacrifice
and concern for national
development.

The roads, clinics, bridges
and schools, which have been
or are being built with rally
funds are, above all, monu-
ments of what can be accom-
plished without relying prin-
cipally on outside assistance.
The President, in his address
launching the rally, aptly
declared: "If we are to
achieve our objectives of
moving this nation rapidly
ahead, we must cultivate to
the highest extent the attri-
butes of self-reliance and
self-help. We must assess our
resources, devise means of
helping ourselves and put to
maximum utilization our
inherent abilities."

The author is Minister of
Information, Cultural Af-
fairs and Tourism

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Vital role for overseas capital

by Olle Wijkström

Direct foreign investment in Liberia has been mainly in rubber, iron ore and timber—all being produced for export—and has aided the development of many resources, which otherwise might have remained unused. Liberia has realized that foreign capital can play a constructive role in long-term economic development by providing the financial means for the country to acquire roads, power facilities, and other infrastructure. It can, in addition, generate income, encourage expansion of complementary economic activities, train Liberians in new skills and encourage domestic business.

In his inaugural address on January 3, 1944, the late President Tubman said: "We shall encourage the investment of foreign capital in the development of the country, preferably on a partnership basis, and we shall accord to investors the necessary protection and fairness of treatment."

The "open door policy", that was first announced in 1944, has been in force for more than 30 years. President Tolbert, since he became President in 1971, has strongly upheld this policy.

Liberia therefore offers a

very favourable climate for investment. One important factor is the political stability the country enjoys. The laws of Liberia also provide incentives for foreign investors and permit the export of capital. The fact that Liberia's official currency is the United States dollar is welcomed by many foreign investors who have suffered from the instability and poorer convertibility of currencies of developing countries.

Mining is by far Liberia's most important industry. In 1974 iron ore and diamonds accounted for about 70 per cent of total exports: \$268m (about £107m) out of a total of \$378m. Iron ore exports totalled \$238m and diamond exports were \$30m.

There are indications of other minerals, including tin, bauxite, manganese, platinum, trypanite and gold. The Ministry of Lands and Mines has started a mineral evaluation programme to identify and quantify mineral deposits. There are concessions for the exploration of gold and heavy minerals in the sand along the coastline, and three concessions for offshore oil exploration. So far, none of these has any significant economic importance.

The development of the iron ore industry can be traced to 1943 when a geo-

logical survey team from the United States made a study of the Boni Hills. Geologists confirmed the existence of iron ore and the result was the establishment of the Liberian Mining Company (LMC) which, in August, 1945, obtained a concession from the Government.

Since then three more iron ore companies have been formed and are in operation: National Iron Ore Company, Lamco Joint Venture and Bong Mine. Total basic investment by these four companies amounted to about \$400m by 1965. The ore reserves at the four sites were roughly estimated at 1,000 million tons of minable ore at the start of production.

Exploration work being undertaken at another area, the Wologisi Range, will probably result in the establishment of another mining company.

The iron ore industry employs 11,531 people, representing about 18 per cent of wage earners in the country. Out of the total production figure of 25,200,000 tons, about four million tons consisted of pellets produced by Lamco Joint Venture and Bong Mining Company.

The ore deposits vary in quality and grade. Parts of the Nimba Range contain

high grade ore, while most other deposits consist of low-grade ore. Some of the mines have built concentrating plants for further treatment of the ore before it is exported.

All the mining companies, with the exception of Lamco Joint Venture, transport their ore by rail to the port of Monrovia. Lamco transports its ore to the port of Buchanan. The Liberian Mining Company will be phased out early next year, at which time the ore reserves of the company will have been depleted after 25 years of production.

In addition to the exploration work being undertaken at the Wologisi Range by a new group of investors, some of the existing companies are also engaged in further geological studies. The Bong Company is exploring the Putu Range, in the north-eastern part of Liberia, and Lamco is exploring in the western part of the Nimba area.

Advantages for everyone

Most of the mining companies are organized on a partnership basis with the Government. As a result the Government is a part-owner of the enterprises and participates actively at board level in their financial and operational activities.

There are many advantages for all parties involved in such a scheme. Joint ownership tends to reconcile divergent interests and to promote collaboration with the host government.

The iron ore companies in Liberia are working under concession agreements which lay down the terms and conditions of their activities. Besides the financial terms included in such agreements, they also stipulate, among other things, that the companies should give preference to local employees whenever qualified Liberians are available. In addition, the companies must conduct training programmes to enable local employees to eventually replace foreign personnel.

Another important part of concession agreements is that all fixed investments made by the companies in, for example, essential services, will become the property of the Government when the agreements expire.

The mining industry contributes in many ways to the development of the country's economy. About 20 per cent

of the total revenue comes from iron ore companies in the form of dividends, royalties, taxes, and so on. This import of "fresh money" into the economy plays an important role in the development process of the country.

Modern towns have been built in areas which were previously very sparsely populated and located in isolated parts of the country. It is estimated that the mining companies together provide schooling facilities for about 6,000 students, and their hospitals treat inhabitants of the surrounding villages and towns as well as mining personnel.

New roads and railways have opened up areas for commercial development. The Lamco Joint Venture has, for example, built a 160-mile railway linking the Nimba region in the North-east with Buchanan port.

The railway serves Lamco and is also open for

commercial traffic. The company acts as a carrier and transports substantial amounts of logs and timber, palm kernels and other goods, the bulk being transported to Buchanan and on to foreign markets.

At Buchanan Lamco has built a harbour with a quay for iron ore and a quay for commercial traffic.

Fear of making ghost towns

The iron ore companies offer training courses for mechanics, electricians, and operators, with scholarships available for college entry to degree courses.

Two critical observations are often made about mining industries. The first is that they have depletable resources, the fear being that they will leave ghost towns

behind them when production ceases. The second point is that mining companies tend to build "enclave" communities. As the ore deposits are located in isolated areas, mining towns run the risk of being isolated from the rest of the society.

Lamco has taken steps to minimize these problems. Yekopa, the site of Lamco's mine, is located 160 miles from the coast, close to the borders of the Ivory Coast and Guinea. Before Lamco came into being it was just a little native village with a few inhabitants; today it has about 22,000 inhabitants.

In order to avoid making the town a community dominated by one company, Lamco started a rural development programme. The aim was to encourage small industries to come into the area. Activities not directly connected with the mining operations—like transportation, construction, retail business, rubbish collection, saw-

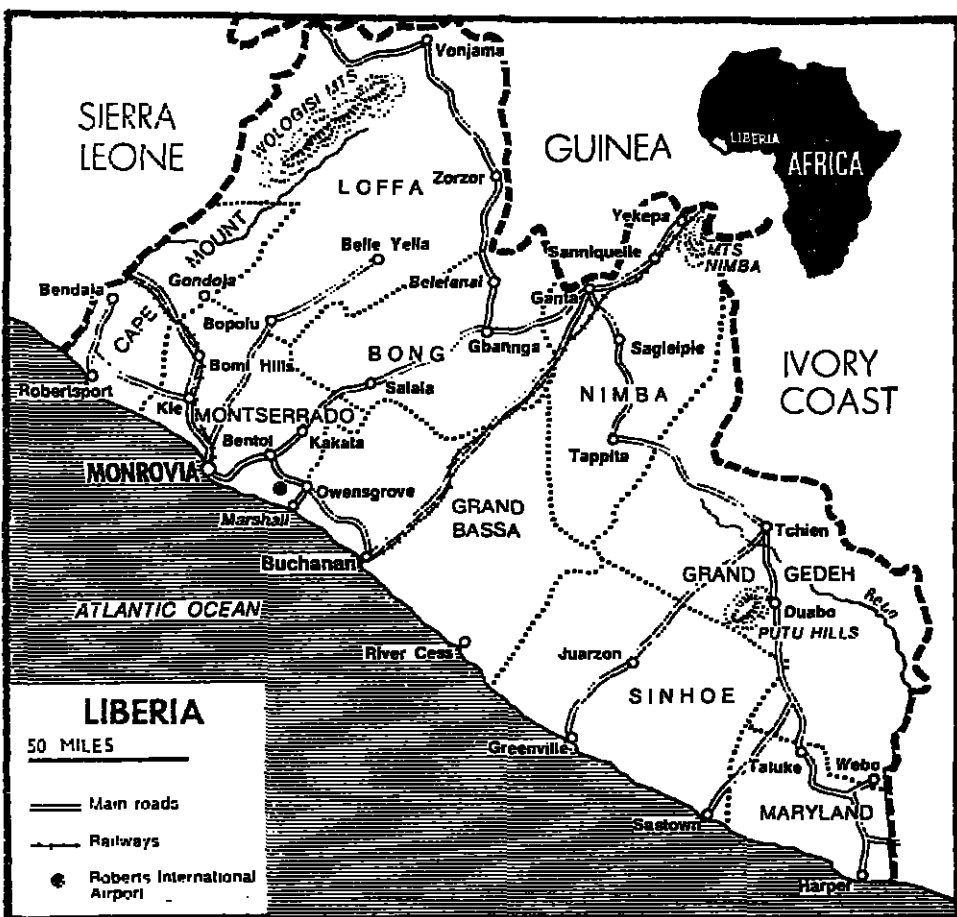
mill operations and so on—were entrusted to local entrepreneurs.

The rural development programme was later expanded: a separate development company called Partnership for Productivity, Inc. (PPI), was formed. PPI, a non-profit corporation created by the Liberian legislature, maintains a staff of commercial, industrial and agricultural advisers whose task is to investigate business opportunities and encourage

employment. Special emphasis is put on agricultural and forestry projects. The success of this initiative has stimulated the interest of international technical assistance agencies. PPI is now getting additional financial support from American and Swedish aid agencies.

The author is general manager of the Lamco Joint Venture Operating Company.

Giant transporters carry the iron ore from the mine face at the Mount Nimba mine.



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Unique ties with America

by Howell S. Teeple

A long tradition of American economic and security assistance to Liberia has resulted from the unique and historic ties between the two countries. A special relationship in the eyes of most Liberians and Americans has developed from which both countries have gained. Settled by freed slaves from America and the Caribbean beginning in 1821, Liberia is the oldest black republic in Africa, a one-time member of the League of Nations and a charter member of the United Nations.

As a result of this heritage, Liberian influence in African affairs and elsewhere has been greater than its size or population would indicate. Against this background also is Liberia's record of political stability, which has continued United States interest over the years in assisting in the development of Liberia.

The smooth constitutional succession in 1971 from President Tubman to President Tolbert and the subsequent performance of the Tolbert Administration has further enhanced Liberia's image abroad, strengthened the friendly relations between Liberia and the United States and brought about strong economic ties. American economic programmes over the years have been a positive factor in the development of Liberia.

Liberia has now enjoyed more than 20 years of steady economic growth, reaching a high point in 1973. Except for world inflation and the high price of petroleum, the 1973 high point would have undoubtedly continued upward. Even in the face of those two adverse factors, the Liberian economy has prospered and the country continues to enjoy a fairly healthy balance of payments as a result of substantial trade surpluses, enabling it to service its foreign debt and pay for foreign capital, technology, and management.

An illustration of the so-called special relationship between Liberia and the United States is Liberia's use of the dollar as its domestic currency. With no controls over monetary transfers, capital flow or other financial transactions, the Liberian open-door policy initiated by President Tubman and continued by President Tolbert, has attracted considerable American business.

In terms of direct equity investment, the United States has roughly a \$500m stake in Liberia. In turn, Liberia is the highest per capita recipient of American bilateral

economic aid of any country in Africa, some \$250m worth since the end of the Second World War. Total American assistance to Liberia by the American Agency for International Development and through the United Nations, World Bank and other multinational institutions amounts to some \$450m.

American aid today is centred on modernizing the Liberian telecommunications system, developing rural health services and building rural roads, improving facilities at Roberts International Airport outside Monrovia and upgrading human resource efficiency in the public administration sector and the civil service system.

American aid for fiscal year 1975 will amount to \$12.3m. In addition, the United States, through a special agreement with Liberia, contributes some \$275,000 annually for educational and cultural exchange.

American investment in Liberia is in mining, rubber, timber, oil refining, banking, insurance and shipping. There is also American investment in flour milling, palm oil growing, light industry, transport and commercial products and services.

Best known of all the American investments in Liberia is the huge Firestone rubber plantation, 10,000 acres, in the Putu Range. It is reportedly the largest rubber plantation in the world, and Firestone is about to celebrate its fiftieth anniversary in Liberia. It is the largest single employer in the country, outside the Government, with more than 14,000 workers. B.F. Goodrich and Uniroyal also operate rubber plantations and Uniroyal an experimental farm in Liberia.

While rubber was once king, it has been taken over and far surpassed by iron ore. Four iron ore mines, three with American interests, have been in operation for a number of years. Two mines, Boni Hills and Mano River, are partly owned and operated by Republic Steel, while the largest, Lamco, is owned by German and Italian interests. What may prove to be the biggest all the iron ore mines in Liberia is the Wologisi project in the far north of the country.

The rich strain is under consideration for development by American and Japanese investors, who will have to spend more than \$500m to bring it into opera-

tion. American, European and Japanese backers are also being sought to develop other rich iron ore deposits at the Putu Range. Iron ore accounts for more than 80 per cent of Liberia's exports.

The largest investment in Liberia's rich forest products is by the American company, Vanyly, Incorporated, a fully owned subsidiary of Mr Paul Geny's Skelly Oil Company. The Liberian investment represents one of the most spectacular timber products plants to be set up in Africa.

Raymond International Construction Company has already completed the giant sawmill and is hurrying to complete the plywood plant, housing area and ancillary units. While the sawmill was completed this year and is already in operation, the plywood plant is due for completion this winter.

According to Mr J. Roger Collins, executive vice-president of Vanyly of Liberia, the rated capacity of its sawmill will be 33,000 board feet annually or 78,000 cu metres. When completed the plywood plant will turn out 85 million sq ft of 5.5mm thickness annually or 50,000 cu metres, he also indicated. When completed, Vanyly of Liberia will operate both the sawmill and the plywood factory around the clock, employing approximately 1,200 workers.

It will draw its timber from a concession area of 1,600,000 acres, including option area, obtained from the Liberian Government in 1972 on a long-term use of forest products contract. Within this area is a diversity of tropical hardwoods, including substantial quantities of *Tecarbertinia* and *Tubmaniana*. The present sawmill operation and construction of the plywood plant is being supervised at the Sinoe County site by Mr Kees Haaschoren, president and general manager of Vanyly of Liberia.

The author is Counsellor for Public Affairs, American Embassy, Monrovia.

IRON ORE MINING COMPANIES				
Company	Start of production	No. of employees in 1974	Produced in 1974 (mill. t)	
Liberian Mining Co.	1951	2,184	2.1	
National Iron Ore	1961	2,188	3.5	
Lamco Joint Venture	1963	4,391	12.9	
Bong Mine	1964	2,768	6.7	
Total		11,531	25.2	

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128th Independence
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ISSUED BY THE PRESIDENCY, REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA, MONROVIA, LIBERIA

A STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

As the Republic of Liberia celebrates the 128th Anniversary of our Independence, it is important to note the long history of close and friendly relations that have existed between Liberia and Britain. The links in our relationship were forged in 1848 when, one year after our forefathers had proclaimed Liberia's independence to the world, Britain became the first country to recognize the new nation.

Joseph Jenkins Roberts, our first President, shortly thereafter paid a State Visit to Britain upon invitation of Queen Victoria and concluded a Treaty of Friendship, Navigation and Commerce. He thus established what was to become the first of many official contacts between Liberia and Britain over the years.

We are proud to note that despite the international cross currents caused by geopolitical uncertainties, Anglo-Liberian friendship remains without fissures and indeed continues to expand in even more meaningful directions. The marriage of British capital and technical know-how with Liberian natural resources within an assured climate of political stability and free enterprise has proven to be a happy one and we look forward to more instances of this type of partnership.

Liberia remains firmly committed to the Open Door Policy in keeping with present realities and our national interest. We have entered a New Era in which the Liberian people imbued with a sense of Manifest Destiny, have come, more than ever before to increasingly rely on their own efforts in the steady march along the difficult but noble path to economic development.

This is an era of the total involvement of our people; a time in which each Liberian, young and old, loses himself in pursuit of the lofty objective of nation-building. It is a time in which we are wholeheartedly committed to raising the standard of living of all Liberians. Our vibrant efforts have enabled us to usher in a period in which sustained, balanced approach to economic development is accorded priority consideration.

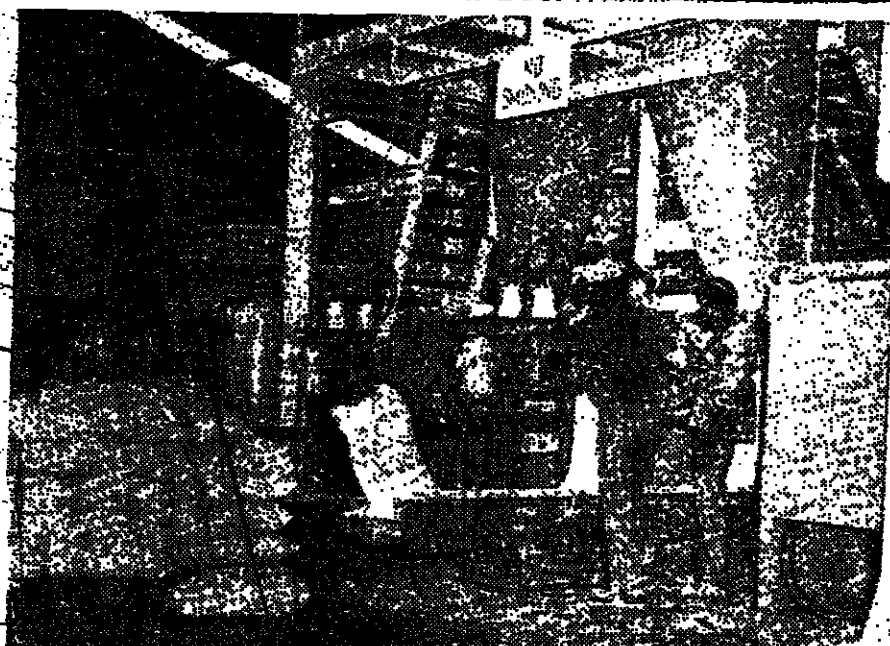
British technical and other forms of assistance continue to complement our own development efforts. We are particularly happy over that aspect of assistance which is enabling many Liberians to develop their own creative and innovative expertise through educational and cultural exchanges.

We invite our friends in Britain and the rest of Europe, and for that matter the whole world, to join us as partners as we seek to build a vibrant economy from the rich resources of our country, so that both we and they can prosper.

W. R. Tolbert, Jr.



LIBERIA



Only the many new industries is this flour mill located in a coastal region of the country, some 30 miles from Monrovia.

INVEST AND PROSPER

Liberalism, Liberia's stability, her resources and her "open door" policy attracted foreign investors on a scale almost unique for a country of her size and population. Over the years the inflow of capital totalled about \$1 billion. Nearly all of it came from about half a dozen western countries and most of it went into iron ore mining ventures. None of it was illicitly motivated, illustrating the confidence of hard-headed business people in the good faith of Africa's first independent republic.

With the world iron ore market reaching saturation point and with commodity prices at a very low ebb, obvious investment opportunities tumbled off in the late sixties. Nevertheless, the confidence of foreign investors continued to find expression in such smaller ventures as a cement plant, an oil refinery, a textile mill, a cigarette factory and other manufacturing, mining and service projects.

The next "rush" came at the turn of this decade when timber prices began to rise as the early sixties' slump diminished. Within two years dozens of companies applied for and were granted concessions to exploit the virgin forests. As always the first to come were the big, well-served and secured concessions in the most accessible areas. Those who arrived in the profitability of timber concessions had become a foregone conclusion found that only all the available forest areas had gone.

The government's policy now is to ensure that a great proportion of the country's timber resources is processed locally in the form of boards, plywood, pulp or finished products. One willing to invest in such ventures may still find it possible to obtain a timber concession though some may prefer to buy logs locally from existing concessionaires.

In addition to timber there are vast untapped resources which should prove increasingly valuable as food and industrial raw materials are becoming scarcer throughout the world and both the population and living standards tend to increase.

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

With over 95 per cent of her reasonably fertile land still under natural vegetation, Liberia's natural economic potential lies in agriculture. Both experience and studies have already shown that the soil and climate are ideally suited for such cultures as rubber, oil palm, sugar cane, cashew, avocado, coffee, cocoa, tobacco, citrus, pineapple, all of which are being successfully grown to various extents. Cassava and yams which grow naturally throughout the country and require a minimum of attention when cultivated could also become valuable export crops. Dry cassava chips have been used in Europe for some years as an animal feed and its use has rocketed together with that of groundnut cake and other feeds. Countries like Germany and Holland which import large quantities from South-East Asia may find it worthwhile to consider a source of supply involving lower shipping costs.

A variety of non-tropical products, including tomatoes, cucumber, lettuce, melons and some European vegetables can also be grown successfully in Liberia as in northern countries. Mining offers opportunities which the changed world market conditions make increasingly attractive.

Iron ore deposits at least the size of those which are already being exploited still lie unexplored. Three of these—Wologidi, Gble and Futu—have been partially or fully explored and are known to be commercially viable.

Gold, diamonds, phosphates, barite, kyanite and ceramic clay are known to exist in Liberia. Warranting mining on a modern commercial scale. Cassiterite, bauxite, manganese and other valuable minerals have been located but further studies are needed to determine the magnitude of existing reserves.

Liberia's deep sands contain a variety of heavy minerals including ilmenite, rutile, zircon and monazite. Pure silicate sands have also been discovered offering an opportunity for manufacturing glass.

Seismic recordings and exploratory wells indicate the existence of offshore oil, though commercial quantities have yet to be found. In the industrial sphere the availability of raw materials, energy, water, space and infrastructure facilities as well as low labour costs and permanent incentive combine to indicate the feasibility of a number of projects.

These include a steel mill, recommended in 1963 by the U.N. Economic Commission for Africa, as a source of supply for the West African market. More recent developments, including oil and shipping shortages and the pollution problem, suggest the desirability of a larger plant producing up to one million tons a year and geared to the requirements of European, American and Japanese consumers.

A pulp mill is a distinct possibility considering the world paper shortage, the availability of Liberia's vast quantities of wood with an adequate cellulose content and an ample supply of water and power.

Other possible export industries in which potential investors have already shown some interest include sugar refining, food processing and preservation (especially citrus and pineapple crops), rubber processing and the production of finished rubber articles, including tyres, the manufacture of glass, furniture and diamond cutting.

The Mano River Agreement providing for a customs union between Liberia and Sierra Leone

Palm development has a great future in the country.



A Tobacco Nursery: Tobacco growing is being experimented with good results so far.

and the establishment of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) open new opportunities for the establishment of a whole range of industries supplying the growing regional market.

WHY INVESTORS CHOOSE LIBERIA

In addition to an abundance of valuable natural resources, a safe market, political stability and a hearty welcome, Liberia offers also unusually attractive investment incentives. These may include tax holidays, duty exemption on imports of capital equipment, raw materials and supplies, special facilities for leasing land from the state at rentals which in the case of agricultural projects can be as low as 10 per cent per annum, the guaranteed rights to repatriate profits and capital and, if necessary, tariff protection on the home market which can later be extended to other markets in the region. In the case of mining, timber and other ventures involving the use of wasting assets the State generally expects up to 50 per cent of net profits in lieu of all taxes.

The normal level of taxation beyond holiday periods is also low in comparison with levels obtaining in most other countries. Corporate income tax starts at 10 per cent to reach 45 per cent on taxable income exceeding \$100,000 per annum, while the effective rate on personal income tax never exceeds 26 per cent—the level applicable on taxable amounts in excess of \$100,000.

Corporations set up in Liberia are expected to offer 25 per cent of their share issue to nationals, but Liberian investors have not always taken advantage of this facility.

As can be anticipated, labour costs are generally very much lower than those in developed countries, especially for unskilled and semi-skilled workers; and strikes are rare and short-lived. The minimum rate of pay for agricultural workers is 12½ cents (15p) an hour, while semi-skilled industrial workers seldom earn more than the equivalent of 50 cents (20p) an hour.

It is noteworthy that business failures in Liberia have been extremely few and virtually none have involved foreign investors. On the other hand, net returns on capital investment have averaged 28 per cent during periods of relatively stable prices.

Loans and equity capital are available at six commercial banks. All of them are wholly or partly owned by leading world banking organizations and are always ready to entertain relevant proposals. In addition, the Liberian Bank for Industrial Development Investment (L.B.I.D.I.) was set up on government initiative with the support of the World Bank to assist in the establishment and development of private productive enterprises. Supplied by funds from sources at home and abroad, the Bank provides medium and long-term loans as well as equity financing. It also sponsors and underwrites new issues of securities and guarantees loans and commitments of other investors. The government financed Liberian Development Corporation has also been set up to study the desirability and the commercial feasibility of various projects and to assist investors or to participate with them in the establishment of new ventures.

Willing and useful partners can also be found among Liberian corporations and individuals of substance who, though competent in matters of general administration and finance, often lack expertise in specific fields as well as adequate capital.

With Liberia's economic, political and physical assets, investors receive not only profitable returns on their investments, but also that degree of protection without which good business cannot thrive.

TOURISM DEVELOPMENT

Like many other developing countries in Africa, Liberia is making elaborate plans to get her share of the booming tourist industry which is moving towards the African continent.

President Tolbert, recognizing the importance of tourism, has set national goals for tourism and made the development of this industry a priority of government. Presently, government is studying several proposals and feasibility studies, submitted by both local and foreign experts.

There are a number of reasons why investing in tourism in Liberia would be economically sound:

Firstly, the country is approximately 2,500 miles from the centre of Europe and 4,500 miles from New York. The fares from the United States and Europe to Liberia compare very favourably with those to other West African countries, which are becoming major tourist destinations.

Secondly, much consideration is being given to infrastructural development, which is an essential component of the tourist industry.

Thirdly, in Monrovia, the nation's capital, and other areas of the country, hotels and guest houses offer modern facilities. Additionally, night clubs and restaurants are also found in the city.

Fourthly, of the country's 2,500 miles of roads, 1,400 are all weather and over 250 miles are paved. Private concession and farm-to-market roads (mostly self-help projects) account for another 1,500 miles.

Fifthly, in the area of communication, a world-wide telephone system links Liberia with a

"We are ready to be exploited for your relaxation", so seem to say the sunny beaches that make up the more than 300-mile coast line of Liberia.



ADVERTISEMENT



Iron Ore Processing Plant. Liberia is rated as the fourth largest producer of iron ore in the world.

number of African and European countries and the United States. There is a domestic radio microwave telephone system which links Monrovia with many cities and towns within the country.

Surveys already conducted by foreign and local experts have stressed that tourism development must, of necessity, start from Monrovia, since, as a matter of fact, it has most of the basic infrastructure needed to support the programme in its initial stage.

However, from Grand Cape Mount County to Maryland, a distance of approximately 360 miles, the Atlantic coastline of sandy beaches is dotted with scenic lagoons and bays that can be developed for boating and swimming as well as other water sports.

Lake Elso located in Grand Cape Mount County about 58 miles from Monrovia, possesses immense potentials for an ideal tourist resort. The lake contains an island called Massaging, which covers 600 acres, and has an abundance of green vegetation and several species of wildlife peculiar to Liberia and Africa.

Located on the island are fascinating fishing villages that are rich in local traditions.

Besides its natural beauty, the area around the lake is considered as one of the healthiest spots in the country. It is said to be a haven for people suffering from respiratory diseases.

This picturesque body of salt water has an abundant supply of fish and water of considerable width and depth, which make it ideal for a variety of sports including boating, fishing, skin-diving, swimming and water skiing throughout the year.

Another important asset the country possesses for tourism development is a rich reservoir of folk-tales that is, her folk dances, music, historic shrines and monuments, folk-tales and legends, festivals and a variety of handicrafts, just to mention a few.

The tremendous potentials for the development of tourism, coupled with a healthy climate for investment, place Liberia in an ideal position for the development of a booming tourist industry.

PROBLEMS OF THE LIBERIAN WRITER

Bai t. Moore

In the past decade or so, much publicity has been given to the emergence and importance of African literature as a force in shaping the social and political developments on the continent.

Already, volumes have been produced on various aspects of African literature by both African and western scholars. Critical assessment of this growing body of literature appears in anthologies in French, English, German, Italian, Hebrew, Russian, among others.

Strangely enough, despite her long literary history, Liberia has received very little attention in the great literary revolution now sweeping the African continent. The reasons for this are obvious.

From the onset, there has not been a local outlet for Liberian writers. The short-lived newspapers and magazines published in the country over the years never made any effort to encourage writers.

For instance, from the third decade of the 19th century to the early years of the present century, Liberian writers like Hilary Teague and Beverly R. Wilson, poets, Edward W. Blyden, orator and philosopher and Edwin J. Barclay, poet and composer, to mention a few, made significant contributions to Liberian and world literature.

In other countries, and under similar situations, the poems of Teague, Wilson and Barclay, and the orations of Blyden would have received wide acclaim and maximum circulation. But these men wrote at a time when there were no publishing facilities and no audience to appreciate their literary productions, a situation which persists to this day.

The 2nd World War ended Liberia's isolation from the rest of the world. Her writers suddenly found themselves emerging on the stage of important historical events which were destined to shape the destiny of the African continent.

Unlike their predecessors, the writers of the mid twentieth century like Roland T. Dempster, H. Carey Thomas and Bai T. Moore, turned their attention away from religious themes to the burning issues of the day—the fight against imperialism and bringing about of democratic African states. Although the poems of the trio, in the mid forties, echoed the voices of the men and women who were fighting for the liberation of the African continent, their mouth piece, a collection of their poems, "Echoes from the valley", the first anthology, could not find publishers and a market. The valuable collection was finally reproduced by the Douglas Muir, a newspaper outfit, operated by the Episcopal High School in Robertsport, Grand Cape Mount County. Despite the cost to produce the volume, the few hundreds produced were given away to friends.

The Liberian writer still finds himself handicapped by a limited market for his productions. The reading public in the country is yet small, and because he is not yet known beyond the borders of his own country, he is excluded from the large markets of Africa, Europe and America.

The expansion of the economy and the improvement of communication facilities will, to be sure, provide incentives for the establishment of publishing facilities in Liberia for the writers of tomorrow.

Timber being shipped at the port in Monrovia.



مكتبة الأحياء

ADVERTISEMENT



LIBERIA

THE MARCH TO HIGHER HEIGHTS

A PROGRESS REPORT

As Liberia entered the decade of the Seventies, basic internal conditions seemed intractable. Patent educational inequities persisted. The extent of basic health services left much to be desired. And the inadequacy of equipment and expertise enlarged the structural impediments of marketing. Concentrated urban development made the depression of subsistence living even more glaring. Marginal contributions from concessions were not conducive to financial viability and growth potential. And upon the difficult constraints of domestic financial circumstances were added monetary dislocations, international inflation, declining terms of trade, and the petroleum crisis.

IMPROVED FINANCIAL POSITION

In the earnest quest of a fuller life for Liberians, the Tolbert Government in 1972 spent \$8.4 million on education; in 1974, \$11.91 million. In 1972 it earmarked \$2.8 million for agriculture; in 1974, \$4.9 million. In 1972, \$4.9 million was devoted to health improvements; in 1974, \$7.3 million. In 1972, \$2.8 million was outlayed for public works; in 1974, \$7.4 million.

Central to the attainment of nation-building is a sound and dependable financial system. Nearly four years ago when the Administration came into office, Government was faced with a potential cash deficit of approximately \$11 million, consisting of both foreign and local carry-over obligations for the previous eighteen years; of an extra non-budgeted expenditure of nearly \$4 million; and of scattered cash advance accounts to various Government agencies. Systems of administrative control and management of public funds were either ineffective or absurd, and revenue inflows from major concessional sources were not being maximized.

By 1972, the cash balance of Government had been increased by fifty per cent, and at the end of 1974 Government had retained a cash surplus of \$4.5 million. Short-term Financial Assets also moved from a negative balance of \$1.5 million in 1972 into a surplus of \$9.5 million. Despite the unavoidable rise in external debt obligations from \$14.3 million to \$18.6 million between 1972 and 1974, the significant rise in revenues (excluding coinage) from \$77.6 million to \$107.8 million for the period enabled Government to meet its obligations in 1974 from domestic resources alone, thus improving the international credibility of Government. It is expected that revenue collections in 1975 will reach \$117 million, some \$4 million in excess of estimate. Rather than a net borrower from local banks, Government has, in this short space of time become a net lender to those institutions. The level of liquidity has at times remained at the \$10 million mark, being placed on Time Deposit in order to earn interest income for Government. It is also important to note that by 1974 the level of public investment had increased almost 400 per cent from a base of \$2 million in 1972.

Partly due to the improved financial standing of the Government, Liberia's Gross Domestic Product has increased from \$413 million in 1972 to \$673 million in 1974.

1974, a more than 62 per cent rise, moving per capita GDP from less than \$400 in 1971 above the \$448 mark, among the more respectable figures in Third World Countries. Again, between 1972 and 1974 Liberia's exports rose from \$270 million to \$400 million, with iron ore accounting for about 65 per cent of its value. The value of imports increased from \$179 million in 1972 to \$289 million in 1974, within which movement the increase in Liberia's oil bill by nearly 500 per cent is noteworthy.

The Administration can be credited not only with the effective conservation of the nation's financial resources but also for the effective extension of Liberia's financial potential. This it has done in the creation and restructuring of banking and other institutions. Prior to 1972, commissions paid to the Bank of Monrovia, Government's Depositor, amounted to \$400,000, excluding interest charges on short-term loans and revolving accounts. Moreover, banking institutions in the country were not all supervised, and their contribution to the development effort was only incidental. Because of the high cost of banking services to Government, therefore, and in view of the need to channel and direct Liberia's monetary resources into priority sectors for development, Dr. Tolbert on July 10, 1974, inaugurated the National Bank of Liberia, the first central banking institution of the nation. The power and authority of the National Bank are buttressed by a Financial Institutions Act which sets forth its regulation relations with the banking sector of the country. Besides managing the cash resources of Government, the Bank assists in formal matters of international financial relations and advises Government on various loan proposals.

Other financial-type institutions designed to lend Government a motivating hand in the process of development are public corporations. Five such institutions have been created since 1972, namely, the Liberia Rubber Processing Company, the National Housing and Savings Bank, AGRIMECO, the Liberia Sugar Company, and Liberia Hotels Incorporated. When they became fully operative, these corporations will add to the list of ten others in providing additional employment and production. Most of the already existing public corporations have been restructured since 1972, notable among which are the Liberian Bank for Development and Investment and the Public Utilities Authority.

Major legislative enactments during the last four years

include positive steps for political change, local development, financial restructuring, and international economic cooperation.

Under the general heading of "political", legislation was passed effectuating:

REDUCTION OF THE VOTING AGE FROM 21 TO 18 YEARS OF AGE;
CHANGE OF NOMENCLATURE OF DEPARTMENTS TO MINISTRIES;
REVIEW OF PRESIDENTIAL TERM OF OFFICE FROM EIGHT YEARS PLUS FOUR SUCCESSIVE FOUR-YEAR TERMS TO EIGHT YEARS ONLY;
ESTABLISHMENT OF ELECTORIAL DISTRICTS FOR THE ELECTION OF THE NATIONAL LEGISLATURE;
INCREASE OF MEMBERSHIP IN THE NATIONAL LEGISLATURE BY ONE ADDITIONAL REPRESENTATIVE PER COUNTY OR TERRITORY FOR EVERY TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND PEOPLE; AND
ELECTION OF TRADITIONAL CHIEFS EVERY FOUR YEARS.

Under the rubric of local development, Government approved legislation covering:

THE CHANGE OF NAME OF THE MINISTRY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS TO THAT OF MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, AND URBAN RECONSTRUCTION;
THE INCREASE OF THE MINIMUM AGRICULTURAL WAGE BY 56 PER CENT;
AMENDMENT OF INVESTMENT INCENTIVE CODE;
THE CHANGE OF LIBERIAN STANDARD TIME TO GREENWICH MEAN TIME; and
ESTABLISHMENT OF THE INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION.

Laws passed by the Legislature that give new muscle to the financial system are:

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NATIONAL BANK OF LIBERIA;
THE FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS ACT;
AMENDMENT OF THE CUSTOMS CODE; and
AMENDMENT OF THE USURY LAW.

INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION

In the area of international economic cooperation, the Lome Convention, the Mano River Union, and the Treaty of the Economic Community of West African States were ratified.

In consequence, with major Acts of the Legislature, many unprecedented administrative decisions have unfolded, spanning public welfare and participatory development. One of the first acts during the last four years was the discontinuation of the "Public Relations Officers" system and its replacement with a social welfare system. In further consideration of the public well-being the following measures were instituted:

ONE HUNDRED PER CENT SUBSIDY FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS;

FIFTY PER CENT SUBSIDY FOR UNIVERSITY STUDENTS;
FREE HEALTH AND HOSPITAL CARE FOR CHILDREN TWO YEARS OF AGE AND UNDER;
ABOUT THIRTY-SEVEN PER CENT SALARY INCREASES IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR;
PLACING OF PARAMOUNT, CLAN CHIEFS AND THEIR CLERKS ON SALARY; and
GRANTING OF SALARY INCREMENTS, INCLUDING FRINGE BENEFITS, TO MEDICAL DOCTORS, TO NURSES AND NURSE AUXILIARIES.

The Administration has concentrated its efforts on development programmes which highlight self-reliance:
ROTATION OF VENUE OF INDEPENDENCE DAY CELE-

BRATIONS AMONG THE VARIOUS COUNTRIES;
AMALGAMATION OF ALL PRINCIPAL TOWNS (200 HUTS OR MORE TO A TOWN; 400 HUTS OR MORE TO A CLAN; 800 PLUS TO A CHIEFDOM) IN ORDER TO CONSOLIDATE PEOPLE AND CONCENTRATE DEVELOPMENT;
ALLOCATION OF BUDGETARY DEVELOPMENTAL ALLOWANCES ANNUALLY TO EACH TOWNSHIP;
ESTABLISHMENT OF SUBSTANTIAL ANNUAL CASH INCENTIVES OF (\$10,000) FOR INCREASED RICE PRODUCTION;
DUTY FREE IMPORTATION OF AGRICULTURAL EQUIPMENT SUPPLIES; and
REGULATION THAT TWENTY PER CENT OF ANNUAL TIMBER PRODUCTION BE LOCALLY PROCESSED.

RALLY TIME

President Tolbert launched what was to become the symbol of self-reliance for sustained development. In addition to the normal flow of foreign and local resources into the nation, he called upon each Liberian to contribute the amount of ten dollars towards a \$10 million Fund which would be used in all counties and territories of the Republic, for development, projects of their own choosing.

Total collections for the National Fund Raising Rally as of May 12, 1974, amounted to \$4.4 million. Post Rally collections total \$0.5 million, including \$0.3 million as interest earned on Rally Time deposits.

Principal disbursements from the National Fund Raising

Rally have been made for the following:

two hospitals under construction in Lofa and Grand Gedeh Counties;
a large local market and high school in Montserrado County;
a 45-mile road under construction in Grand Bassa County;
a 22.5-mile road in Bong County;
a 40-mile road in Nimba County;
a 37-mile road in Maryland County;
a girls' dormitory at Cuttington College;
a grant of \$1.1 million to the University of Liberia Science

and Administrative Buildings;
donations to various educational and missionary institutions.

Overall efforts of the Administration to make Liberians self-reliant have resulted in at least twenty-one self-help projects—including eleven schools, four clinics, one bridge, three modern market buildings, a number of farm-to-market roads, youth buildings and playgrounds—built by citizens themselves in the various counties and territories. In many instances, Government provides financial assistance for self-help projects. Presently, there are 34 projects in progress and 113 planned.

EMPHASIS ON AGRICULTURE AND EDUCATION

Central to this blueprint of national development is the enhancement of education and agriculture.

Following a Presidential decision to make secondary education free and to subsidize university education by fifty per cent, the index of educational progress rose significantly. Between 1972 and 1974, student enrolment increased by 16,000 from 160,000 to 176,000. Secondary enrolment increased by 56 per cent, and university enrolment by 50 per cent. Forty-six new schools were opened in this period, bringing the total number to 1,167; and 709 teachers were added to the existing number of 4,700. Under the foreign and local scholarship programme, 82 foreign and 147 local scholarships were granted between 1972 and 1974 at a cost of about \$2.3 million. Medical and paramedical school matriculation rose from 267 to 361 for the same period; and for the first time, in 1974, Liberia locally graduated its medical doctors.

With the assistance of the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Community Schools Programme is being implemented, under which nine rural schools were recently constructed.

Mindful of the basic role of science and mathematics as tools for development in the technological age, the engineering college of the University has been reactivated, the curricula of the Kakata and Zoror Rural Teacher Training Institutes have been revised, and efforts are being made to revitalize the Booker Washington Institute and the Harper Technical College for vocational and technical education. In

cooperation with other West African states, a teacher certification scheme has been established, whereby teachers can upgrade their academic qualifications. Moreover, Liberia has now been admitted to full membership of the West African Examination Council.

To meet the specific requirements of the nation, the Tolbert Administration's immediate goals for education are: one elementary school for every six hundred citizens; one junior high school for every Clan; and one senior high school for every Chiefdom. The World Bank Group is participating in this programme. The \$7.2 million Government-World Bank school building project will embrace three counties. In Voinjama, Lofa County and in Zwedru, Grand Gedeh County, will be built one comprehensive high school each, accommodating 600 students, 150 boarders and 10 staff members. The buildings for the University College of Agriculture at Fendall, Montserrado County will accommodate 200 boarders and a staff of 30 and the facilities at Kakata will take 240 students and 16 staff members.

In the wake of frequent natural and other unpredictable disasters disrupting food supplies around the world, bringing starvation to millions of people, the Tolbert Administration has challenged the very trend of history in the country by awakening Liberians to priority action for agricultural self-sufficiency, at both the individual and national levels.

Many positive steps have been taken to ensure a rising response. After climbing by \$1 million from 1971, the agricultural budget increased 75 per cent between 1972 and 1974, from \$2.8 million to \$4.9 million. Personnel devoted to agricul-

tural expansion increased by 40 per cent to its present level of 1,245. Food production being the focus of agricultural efforts, special rice projects, covering 7,615 acres and including 1,353 farmers were commenced. Under the Expanded Rice Programme another 10,000 acres have been earmarked for development, of which 2,709 have been developed for 550 farmers and 1,600 acres planted. The total rice acreage developed by the Ministry of Agriculture has increased tenfold since 1972. During the last three years alone rice imports declined by almost twenty per cent, from 92 million pounds to 77 million pounds, saving millions of dollars in foreign exchange. A National Rice Survey conducted in 1974 placed the local production estimate at 208,000 metric tons.

Log Production of 110 million board feet in 1974 represented an 11 per cent increase above the 1972 level, while the 54 forestry concessions almost tripled the 1972 figure. In keeping with Government policy of annual incremental timber processing, three forest processing companies have been formed, operating in Sinoe and Maryland Counties.

Before 1971, there were no cooperatives in Liberia. Now, there are numerous farmers cooperatives all over the country, with assets amounting to about \$90,000 and a business turnover exceeding \$4 million. There are also a number of credit unions with assets of about \$360,000.

A Rural Integrated Development Programme has been introduced whereby the full range of modern institutions and facilities are being utilized to improve the quality of life in the rural sector where over 70 per cent of Liberians live.

HOUSING AND HEALTH

In the last few years, the Tolbert Administration has been successfully implementing a low-cost housing programme. Since 1972, it has spent over \$0.5 million dollars on low-cost civilian estates, such as the Amilcar Cabral and Gardnersville Housing Estates. Ongoing projects at both locations come close to another half million dollars. About \$700,000 has already been invested in military housing facilities at Schieffelin, Bellefana, Bentol, Barclay Training Center and

Todee.

Shortly after coming to office in 1971, President Tolbert dedicated the \$8.3 million John F. Kennedy Medical Center, one of the most modern in West Africa. Since that time, the general health situation of the country has continued to improve as programmes are implemented to strengthen all aspects of the medical and paramedical system. County hospitals and clinics have been built, existing hospitals have

been renovated, and medical attendants have been more widely dispersed. In 1972 there was a total of 33 hospitals and health centers in the country. Since that time, six additional hospitals and health centers have been built, providing medical attention for about a million in and out patients. The number of doctors has increased a little from more than 100 to 145; the number of nurses and midwives, from about 650 to 810.

CONCLUSION

The most remarkable thing about these achievements and many others which have not been mentioned here, is that they have been made at a time when the entire world is besieged by violent economic crises from which the fragile economic structures of the developing countries have suffered more. It should be added, however, that the most far-reaching accomplishment of Dr. Tolbert is, and will continue to be, that he breathed into the Liberian society a new consciousness and the will to progress. Present and future concrete achievements will remain with posterity, as the outward manifestations of a strong inner regeneration which occurred in Liberia with the advent of his Administration.

A glimpse of the far horizons of achievement

by Leonard Buckley

Where is your Winston Churchill today? Where is your John F. Kennedy? Stephen Tolbert, late Liberia's Minister of Finance and himself now tragically dead, used to rib his western friends with such questions. He liked his men of affairs to be big and he had no great respect for our present lot. That was fair enough. He was big himself.

It, however, he had no great regard for our politicians. He had his reservations, too, about our political institutions. It was not that he despised democracy. He just feared its present inefficiency. Besides, he was an African. He believed in the chiefdomship. His attitude to Brother Willie, the President, was messianic.

That was what brought him into the Government. When his brother asked him to become Minister of Finance, he had no great wish to comply. He was at the time a successful businessman. He had tasted public life and had little appetite for more.

But the President's wish was his command. So he laid aside his private business and took on the national economy. He did so not as a politician but as an efficiency expert taking over a tottering firm; and in no time at all he had set it firmly on its feet.

The story of Steve is at once a romance and a tragedy. You must call him Steve. Everybody did. That way everybody could claim a close acquaintance with the man all Liberia loved and hated, admired and feared—but rarely knew.

His father schooled him with biblical saws in the virtues of honesty and independence that stayed with him all his life. He added, too, a paranoiac fervour. Brother Willie had the ownership of him in his adolescent years and won in return his lifelong devotion.

The corruption of the Tubman regime sickened him when he was a young civil servant. He escaped to the United States on a scholarship. There he sold insurance and swept a factory floor and from there he returned to Monrovia with a wife, a baby and a master's degree.

Reclaimed by Tubman for the public service he did yeoman work at the Ministry of Agriculture. When, however, Tubman would not finance a fishing industry, though Liberia needed protein and the Food and Agriculture Organization had recommended it, Steve resigned, mortgaged his meagre assets and became a fisherman himself.

He bought a boat. He hummed the fish ashore. He sold it from his van. Soon his cold stores dried Liberia and he had changed the eating habits of the nation.

That is the merest outline. The obsessive honesty that he had learnt from his father



The late Stephen Tolbert

stood him in good stead. He could always raise finance. His credit was good. His fleet grew. He expanded and exported. He diversified. Prawns, industrial gases, farming, soap—there seemed no limit to his enterprise.

President Tubman called him back for a spell as Minister of Agriculture. But still his private empire grew. When he left it in 1972 to become Minister of Finance his great Mesurado Corporation had a turnover of \$30m a year. He had interests and houses across the globe.

At once he flung himself into producing the same sort of success for the nation. He picked his staff. He enforced efficiency at the Treasury. He routed out corruption.

Abroad his personal reputation among the men of finance boosted foreign investment. At home he forced up the revenue not by raising taxes but by insisting that everyone met his dues.

It was a traumatic time for some Liberians and for some of the foreign concessionaires. When the bank manager had asked what he should do about some prominent Liberians with long-outstanding loans the advice of Steve as a director of the bank had been typical.

"Hell, make them pay," he said. "I always pay up myself."

Similarly as Minister of Finance he set about the defaulters without fear or favour. There was the same surprise for some of the concessionaires when their agreements came to be reviewed. "They laid on the booze. They laid on the girls," one of Steve's assistants recalls. "They were amazed when they found we had work to do."

The work went on. The taxes were paid. The concessions were reviewed. The house was put in order. And so the economy prospered. The process brought Steve some unpopularity. He had always excited envy. Some of his business competitors had always assumed that if he beat them it was because he was more corrupt.

It was difficult for the Liberians (and for some Europeans too) to realize that he was simply an honest man. Steve did not mind that. He took it in his stride. As Minister of Finance, however, he drew the line when enemies suggested that he was using his public office to further his private empire.

When a pamphleteer stumped the streets in that effect he took out a libel action. He won huge damages. And characteristically he refused to collect them.

Some extracts from his papers illustrate the austere probity of the man. When a member of the Tolbert family sought government

support for a business proposal his reaction was firm. "I have tried to make him understand," he wrote to Brother Willie, "that any proposal that he represents I would scrutinize even more closely than I would scrutinize other proposals for the simple reason that I would not permit my own position and integrity to be compromised."

"If for one moment the public got the impression that he was able to put through deals with the Government that were not at arm's length because of his relationship to you and his relationship to me, our entire credibility and our entire image for integrity would have been destroyed."

He was icy to a fellow minister who resented his insistence that a contract should be checked and who suggested that he was interfering and playing the *ominous* crisis. "If you wish to interpret my letter to suggest that your office is incompetent, irresponsible or dishonest," he wrote, "I am at your service. If because I require evidence that transactions for which I take responsibility are legitimate and valid, you would like to suggest that this ministry considers itself a 'prime minister's office' that is also your prerogative."

"However, I would like to make it clear in this letter that as long as I serve President Tolbert in my present capacity I will discharge my responsibilities in accordance with the laws of the Republic of Liberia and within the framework of the policies he has enunciated. No expression of venom or amount of abuse will deter me from pursuing my duties as I see them."

Perhaps, however, the most cogent evidence of Steve's integrity came from somebody else. At the height of the furor over the libellous pamphlet Steve received a letter from Keith Bradshaw, the English accountant in whom he had entrusted the Mesurado companies when he left them to become Minister of Finance.

"I am anxious," Mr Bradshaw wrote, "that all the facts regarding this group's activities are known, since they would show beyond question of doubt that the pernicious allegations made against you are completely without foundation. As you are well aware, I have on a number of occasions expressed very strongly the view that your official actions towards this group have been unduly harsh and arbitrary, but I have understood your oft-stated objective to change the prevailing attitude towards the whole ques-

tion of morality in the conduct of public office, and quite sincerely feel that the attacks upon you personally are grossly unjust."

Changing the morality of public affairs—that was a task that Steve could do no more than begin. He always sensed that he was a man before his time and he knew that he was building for the future. If the task continues with President Tolbert's encouragement it will be because Steve himself picked Edwin Williams, the Deputy Minister who has now succeeded him. Steve had a talent for spotting young men who thought as he did but who could also think for themselves.

He had other talents. He was a skilful negotiator. Experienced expatriates said that he was the best they had ever known. He could put himself into the other man's mind. He had wonderful application.

There were things to take amiss. He could be harsh and abrupt. He was certainly aggressive. The breakdown of his first marriage had hardened him against the world. Domestic failure drove him to concentrate on success in business. But beneath the shell and with his children he was a lovable, ebullient man.

Steve was four times married. He had brought one bride on honeymoon to Buckingham Palace when he attended President Tubman on a state visit to Britain. He was happy at last with his children. He was a loving father. He was a devoted husband.

That happy marriage apart he drew most personal pleasure from the invitation he received to become chairman of Lamco, the great international consortium that mines much of Liberia's iron ore. Here, if ever, was the black man on terms with the white. But beyond that and his own Mesurado Corporation he could point with satisfaction to much else.

From the Tubman era comes Liberia's oil refinery, for which he fought, and its highly profitable Produce Marketing Corporation. He was proud, too, of Suakoko, the great research station on which Liberia's agricultural hopes are rooted. "I pulled down my father's corn barn," he would tell you, "to get a zinc roof for the first house there."

From President Tolbert's day it would be difficult to choose. You could pick out the new National Bank. You could pick out the buoyant economy. And of course there is that new morality. But if Steve had not been killed in an air crash in April there would have been so much else. He liked to move on. When he had decided that something needed to be done he wanted it finished not today or tomorrow but yesterday. Once

he had settled the means and made sure of the end, he was ready for pastures new.

He had much still to offer Liberia. His ideas on everything from education to the indigenous religions were excitingly realistic. His influence might have spread far beyond his financial base.

The hope of course, was that it would spread far beyond Liberia. Accomplished, far too rich to bother about personal gain and a man you had to respect, he seemed the ideal African to take on some of Africa's problems. In the very weeks indeed before he died, fate had brought Mr Vorster from South Africa to stay with

Leader of women's rights and a youthful minister



Mrs. Victoria A. Tolbert, wife of the President, leading the country's participation in International Women's Year. Right: Mr. William E. Dennis, Jr., an example of youth in high position. Born in 1943, he is Minister of Commerce, Industry and Transport. He went to school at Millfield.

Local languages a neglected heritage

by Henry Cole

While the official adoption of an indigenous language has resulted in conflicts in some countries such as India and Belgium, Liberia has been going through the process of selection and adoption in a quiet manner which is almost imperceptible to the outside world. The selection of a local language to be used nationally side by side with English, the official language, started in January 1972 when during his inauguration as the nineteenth President of Liberia, Dr. Tolbert, the first Liberian chief executive to deliver an inaugural address partly in English and partly in the native language of Kpelle.

He began a trend which is now being strenuously pursued and which in the next decade will result in an inward-looking Liberia. That will not affect English, but it will certainly have psychological and political ramifications which will be of interest internationally.

The next important event which was in strengthening this cultural policy took place at a little village called Jorwah in Suakoko, near the Guinea border in Bong county, north central Liberia. The occasion was the arrival of Mr. Beavogui, who was then Guinea Prime Minister, to break ground for a \$30,000 clinic in the rebuilding of Jorwah.

The clinic is named in honour of President Sékou Touré of Guinea. During the ceremony, preceding the ground-breaking, the President of Liberia and the Guinea Prime Minister dispensed with the services of their interpreters and addressed the gathering in Kpelle.

The President has systematically pursued his cultural linguistic policy. In December 1972 at the graduation exercises of Cuttigny College and Divinity School in Suakoko, 125 miles north of Monrovia, Dr. Tolbert commended missionary efforts at producing religious rites in native languages.

He said he felt the time was ripe for a Liberian language to be taught in the schools side by side with English. Explaining the usefulness of such cultural identity, he said that a common phenomenon in most developing countries was that, as a direct result of contacts with the West, the self-confidence of the vast majority of the people was undermined.

"We are not an exception," he said. "Large numbers of our people seem to suffer from a negative image of themselves." As the country moved away from pre-technological social attitudes and relations it had been experiencing difficulties about identity, and needed psychological support to sustain freedom and development efforts.

The task of higher education in Liberia included providing a cultural base to support self-esteem. That could be accomplished by leading people to a better understanding and appreciation of their background, through the study of culture and the traditional African and Liberian heritage.

"One such relevant and important heritage that has thus far been neglected in our institutions of higher learning is our indigenous languages," the President said.

His comments were quickly followed by an Act of the National Legislature authorizing the setting up of a commission to recommend the choice of one or two Liberian languages to be taught in schools throughout the country. The 14-man commission, headed by Dr. Mary Antonette Sherman, Dean of the Teachers' College in the University of Liberia, may not have a difficult task in recommending the languages of the two largest ethnic groups in Liberia, Kpelle and Bassa.

Both are written and are widely spoken. But Kpelle, which is the largest in

population, and therefore has the advantage of a largely spoken language, has been produced as well as a newspaper, *Kpelle Messenger*.

Of the other languages in Liberia, Kpelle is widely spoken on the littoral, while Grebo is used in the east. Since the Grebos are warlike, rebellious people their language is not encouraged. The most classic of the languages, however, is the one spoken by the tribe inhabiting the south-western section of the country, known as Gola. Cape Mount County. As because it has its own indigenous script (like Amharic in Ethiopia) invented by Bukelle more than 150 years ago, it has intrigued and challenged scholars, partly the Germans, who have made a special study of it, offered suggestions for improvements, and written several books on it. This is a widespread belief that Vai formed part of the Gola man secret code during the Second World War.

There is very reasonable belief that the resurgence study of Liberian languages will further diminish the popular fallacy that Liberia is a country of former American slaves.

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Hopes of becoming a financial centre

The prosperity of Liberia largely hinges on the prosperity of the world. Developed and developing nations these days are inextricably interwoven. The convulsive swirling of the world sends its shudders through Monrovia just as it does through Michigan or Mitcham. The pound in your pocket dwindles in its value. That can happen to the Liberian and his dollar, too.

This does not mean, however, that the developing country is entirely dependent on what takes place outside it. It has some leeway of its own. Its own primary resources and the world's demand for them are obvious factors in its progress. No, too, are the way it manages its counting house and the respect it can command in international finance. If it is well placed in these matters, as Liberia has been in recent years, it can still make some headway against the tide. It can still in some extent at least be master of its fate.

The late Stephen Tolbert, who was Liberia's Minister of Finance until April, was a man who, like Sophocles and Matthew Arnold, saw life steadily and saw it whole. So you could usually rely on him to include in the annual report of the ministry a thumbnail sketch that set his little country in the global scene. His last such report, for the year ending December 31, 1974, was no exception.

Nineteen hundred and seventy-four showed disappointing results for the economic and financial world. Just as the last annual report of this ministry forewarned, the confluence of accelerated inflation and monetary imbalances has brought the world from a state of economic buoyancy into recession. Largely precipitated by the energy crisis, the conditions of slackening demand, of sagging production and of unemployment are evident for most industrialized nations.

"Liberia has already begun to feel the acute adversities of lower prices or slackening demand for most of its primary exports and mounting costs of both consumer imports and development essentials. The harsh impact of these conditions has been softened, however, by favourable prices of the nation's major export, iron ore, and by continuing improvement in the financial administration of crucial economic sectors."

"Accordingly, the financial position of the Government has further improved during 1974. Revenues were \$1,085.6m compared with \$1,089.8m for 1973, and expenditures on current account were \$1,823m, compared with \$1,704m during the previous year; resulting in a current account surplus of \$1,266.6m this year as against \$1,194.4m for 1973. Our financial operations during 1974 can be further

described as one of continuing efforts, through more vigilant control of tax enforcement, to reduce non-productive spending while maximizing government revenues."

President Tolbert himself expanded this summary for the legislature: "The high performance in revenue collection was made possible in 1974 through favourable prices for rubber until last June; through continued high prices for iron ore on the world market during the entire year; by substantial increases in the value of imports combined with effective centralization of consular fees collection at domestic ports; and by successful views of concession agreements. On the whole, increased revenues have been derived from a broader base rather than from tax rate increases."

President Tolbert has some grounds for satisfaction. Since 1971 the revenues of the country had grown by nearly 55 per cent, exceeding revenue estimates each year by at least 12 per cent.

Governance revenue, however, is only one aspect of the economy and world prices have taken their effect in Liberia. The value of exports increased from \$1,324m in 1973 to an estimated \$1,378m in 1974, that is by 17 per cent. But total imports in 1974 were estimated at \$1,290m compared with \$1,194m in 1973.

Out of the increase of \$1,96m, or about 50 per cent, the rise in the import bill for accounted for no less than \$1,44m. All told, then, the trade surplus was reduced from \$1,130m in 1973 to an estimated \$1,88m in 1974.

Inevitably the consumer suffered. Because of these rising import prices the cost of living index increased during 1974 by about 25 per cent, though with characteristic candour the Ministry of Finance noted that the index was outdated and tended to understate the actual rise, which might be estimated at closer to 30 per cent.

The interests of the consumer are watched by the Ministry of Commerce which operates a system of price controls with the cooperation of the Liberian Chamber of Commerce and while the Government endeavours to spend its own money prudently it stimulates the economy by investing in industry and commerce.

Thus on the one hand you

find the Government deciding that it can save money by manufacturing its own licence plates for motor vehicles instead of importing them—a small but typical example—while on the other hand new businesses are encouraged for the production of detergents, hand tools, candles, foam rubber, trailers and corrugated paper.

Monrovia already has its free port. Now the Government is looking ahead to free zone to attract foreign exchange, to create new jobs and to introduce more advanced industrial technology. Meanwhile the financial reputation of the country abroad remains crucial to its welfare. On that point the Ministry of Finance had no doubts.

"International confidence in the financial standing and the development potential of the nation has been enhanced by our long-standing record for political and economic stability, which has been further strengthened over recent years by strong management of the financial resources of the country."

"This confidence has been further evidenced by increased development lending from international financial institutions such as the African Development Bank and the World Bank. Moreover, our enviable record of punctual servicing of an external debt of \$1.14m continues to enhance the nation's creditability. In 1974, such debt servicing amounted to \$1,229.93m."

It is no idle claim. A one-year standby arrangement with the International Monetary Fund to the tune of \$1,48m, \$1,54m from the African Development Bank, \$1.8m from the Arab League, a package of \$15m from the World Bank for various development programmes—the figures are impressive enough.

Nor was 1974 an isolated year. At the end of 1973 a loan of \$3m was concluded with Morgan Grenfell, the British bank, for the purchase of capital or semi-capital goods of British manufacture and allied services. So far in 1975 agreements have included a second loan from the Arab League, a loan and construction understanding of \$1.3m for 500 houses with two Norwegian corporations and one of \$1.1m with the Swedish firms for a forestry development.

There are banking changes to be noted. The National Housing and Savings Bank, established in 1973 to assist

Liberians on a medium long-term basis in financing their homes has been making itself in readiness for starting business. It is a subsidiary of the National Development Bank, established in 1974. The bank has been given a special study of its activities to take in agriculture and infrastructure approaches to rural development.

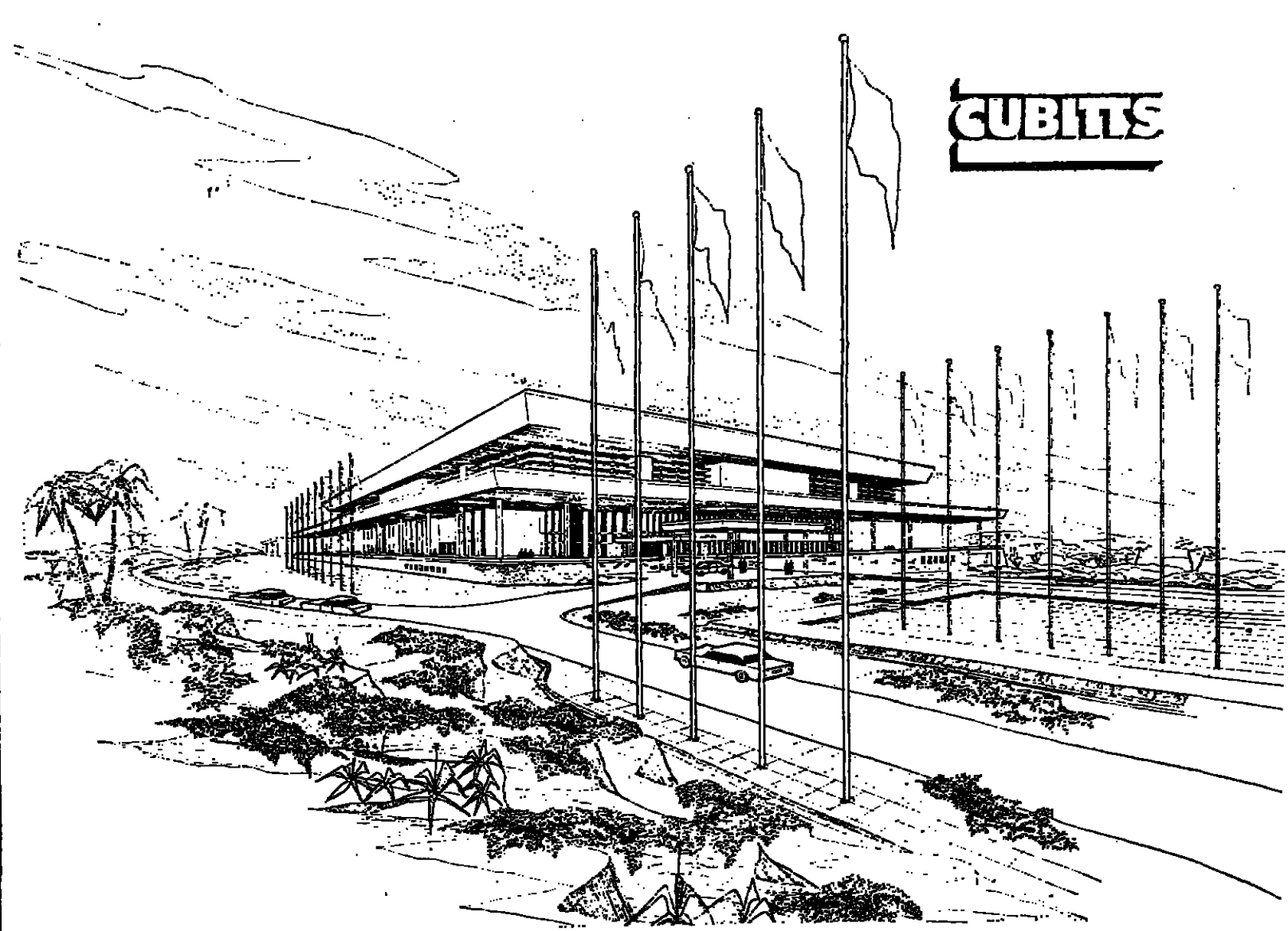
This bank, which began business in 1961, has now housed in new offices in the heart of the city. A sound banking system was high on President Tolbert's list of priorities when he took office and he appointed a banking commission in 1972 to advise him on what needed to be done.

As a result the National Bank of Liberia was established in July, 1974. It is now the exclusive banker and fiscal agent of the Government. It has introduced reserve requirements for the commercial banks and has supervised its supervision of them. It is, however, a bank of issue.

Its powers therefore are largely regulatory. The could no doubt be activated further but expert opinion suggests that Liberia is unlikely to introduce a currency of its own at this stage to replace its dependency of the American dollar, since this might interfere with the repatriation of capital guaranteed under the Government's open-door policy. Moreover, Liberia looks forward to becoming the financial centre of West Africa with the American dollar as the medium of exchange.

The possibility, however, of issuing government Treasury bills is under consideration. Suggestions for new designs for the Liberian coins that circulate alongside the American dollar of \$1.00 and under denominations. The results were disappointing, but the national bank still hopes to introduce new coins in 1975.

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CUBITTS

The Government of Liberia and Cubitts International, the well-known British firm, have formed a Liberian Company known as Cubitts (Liberia) Inc.

Under this arrangement Cubitts is undertaking the construction of a multi-million dollar project which includes a new Terminal Building at Roberts International Airport and a multi-purpose Conference Centre with 45 residences offering first-class accommodation and 52

cabanas nearby. The conference hall will be able to seat between 600 and 1,000 persons comfortably and will offer telephones, simultaneous translation, closed circuit television and other modern facilities. Built outside of Monrovia, near a large lagoon and the Atlantic Ocean, the site also holds vast possibilities for the promotion of tourism. The Conference Centre is ideal for the hosting of OAU Meetings and could easily accommodate the Secretariat of ECOWAS or some other regional grouping.

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THE NEW SERIOUS STUDENT

Students have often comprised a separate estate, as Lord Ashby suggested in a book on the subject published four years ago. Wakened from adolescence yet unmarked by the pain of later compromises, they are staid in their own ephemeral society, no longer dependent children but not yet full members of the adult community. Their eling of separateness is usually identified by the social and intellectual experience of a university education.

Although the wider youth culture is the product of an affluent and commercialized society, this consciousness of the student is not a new phenomenon. It was a moving force behind the foundation of one of Europe's oldest universities, at Bologna, and it sustained the ideal movements of student routes in the late 1960s. Indeed, it is a period of the cohesion and idealism of students have been a political force of great significance in the liberal and national revolutions against absolutism in the nineteenth century, in the events of May, 1968, in France, and in the vain campaign of Senator McGovern to become President of the United States three years ago.

In Britain students have usually played on a more restricted stage and to a less appreciative audience. They felt the same strong sense of the uniqueness of student life as their contemporaries in Europe and the United States, but here he emphasis was more often on the cultural and social aspects of student life than the political reasons for this difference. Many, some obvious such as he much smaller number of students in British higher education until recently, some profound reflections on the nature of our politics and society.

In any case the difference is less marked today than in the early 1960s. The politicization of a minority of students and young lecturers, however synthetic its origins as a parody of more important movements overseas, cannot be overlooked. Nor can the spread of an explicit youth culture with values that often appear alien to older people but are nevertheless an important ingredient of student life today. Perhaps most ominously, the

milder protest of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament has been replaced by the harsh ideas of the New Left as the dominant political ideology among activist students.

So the image of the student most familiar to those who have little direct contact with higher education and whose own student days have receded into a pleasant but indistinct memory is not especially flattering. Often students are assumed to be amoral in their behaviour, extreme in their politics, and contemptuous of all authority and tradition. In return many students pretend to a profound alienation from the society of their elders which they claim has been corrupted by base commercial values, ravaged by the pollution of its environment, and disfigured by the persistence of inequality and discrimination.

The reality is less exciting, but also less alarming, than the myths. Students are not as bad as their critics suggest, nor as virtuous as they themselves imagine. What little evidence there is suggests that students may be more responsible in their personal behaviour than the average young adult. Certainly the belief in their sexual promiscuity is not particularly supported by the fact that the rate of abortions among students is significantly lower than the average. Indeed the impression is that many students quickly—perhaps too quickly—settle down to their chosen partners to lives of near domesticity. The strong movement for women's rights among students has encouraged a serious and even puritan attitude to personal relations.

The second charge, that of political extremism, would be proved beyond any doubt if politicians and journalists were the only witnesses. Of course, the events at Essex last year and the apparently endless troubles of the North London Polytechnic are warnings of the danger presented by extreme and unrepresentative minorities securely entrenched in positions of power. There is also the biannual carnival of the National Union of Students' conference, the excesses of which are usually glossed over by liberal commen-

tators with references to the constructive work of the union between conferences.

However it is important to see such activities in their proper perspective. Universities and colleges are not in constant turmoil and are not producing generations of alienated extremists. In spite of the great Robbins expansion there is little evidence that standards have fallen significantly. The proportion of students who drop out before they complete their degrees is still remarkably low by international standards.

Of course, complacency in face of the activities of unrepresentative groups plotting disruption would be a serious mistake. However to permit this admittedly serious problem to assume the proportions of a possible catastrophe would be an equal error, because such minorities thrive on attention and a favourite tactic is to provoke the authorities into overreaction thus creating a coalition between extremist and more moderate students. In many cases of serious disruption in higher education, this has in fact happened.

Rather than wilding the big stick of threats to make union subscriptions voluntary or to divorce the political and social sides of union activity (which would not be easy), a wiser policy is to adopt less obtrusive measures. There should be fewer sabbaticals for union officials in order to reduce the full-time student-politician class and greater use of ballots instead of mass meetings to encourage moderate students.

There is a danger that obsession with the disruptive tactics of this minority may divert attention from the deeper currents of student life which in the past ten years have shifted in subtle and not unsympathetic ways. The political play-actings of this minority may conceal the seriousness, commitment and sophistication of student life today. The impression in most universities and colleges is that many students have rejected the frivolity and superficiality that was once a feature of student life and instead have adopted a much more mature and perhaps even puritan approach to their own lives and their hopes for the future of our society.

THE UNITED NATIONS NEEDS ISRAEL

It needs to be said again, that any threat to expel Israel from the United Nations is a threat to peace, to the United Nations and indirectly to the interests of the Arab countries themselves. Counsellors of the embassies of Saudi Arabia and Israel in London have now set out their rival arguments in letters to *The Times*. No detached observer can say that one side is wholly right and the other wholly wrong. The Middle East dispute is an intricate historical legacy which arouses intense and understandable passions on all sides. The difficulty which many Arabs have in accepting the existence of the state of Israel is easy to understand. So are the feelings of the Palestinians for territories now under Israeli control. Naturally, too, the expansion of Israel has intensified many of these feelings and brought Israel into conflict with the United Nations, which clearly recognized Israel's right to sovereign statehood.

Nevertheless, the question now is how to achieve peace in the area by some means other than the destruction of the state of Israel. The basic strength of Israel's case is that it is the Arabs who insist on maintaining

the state of war. Were the Arab countries to offer direct negotiations, full recognition and a peace treaty, they could have worldwide support for almost any reasonable frontier they wanted. As it is they have forced Israel to rely for her security on armed force and the acquisition of territory. They provoked the 1967 war by a naval blockade, which was an act of war in itself, and they started the 1973 war with a direct attack on Israel forces.

Israel's policies have not always been the best that could be imagined, and we have criticized them ourselves. There have been times when a more conciliatory attitude could have advanced the cause of peace. Nevertheless, the essential point is that force begets force and as long as force is the final arbiter in the Middle East there will be no solid peace and little point in apportioning precise degrees of legal guilt.

The role of the United Nations in the dispute is vital, particularly as there is no direct and open negotiation between the contestants. The role of the dispute in the affairs of the United Nations is also vital, since the United Nations can justify itself only if it is able to con-

tribute to settling one of the most acute threats to peace in the world. United Nations forces are still essential in stabilizing the situation, and United Nations votes have been important in clarifying issues, registering the balance of opinion, and exerting pressure.

The less complete the United Nations is as a representative body the less effective it will be in all its functions. Arab countries which threaten to expel Israel cast doubt on whether they really want a peaceful settlement and whether they want the United Nations to survive as an effective and representative force for peace and conciliation among nations. If Israel were expelled the ability of the United Nations to act usefully in the Middle East would be destroyed. Israel herself would lose even what limited faith she now has in the ability of the United Nations to protect her existence and contribute to a settlement. The United Nations would be badly and perhaps fatally crippled. War would immediately become much more likely. Since the Arabs must know this it is what they want. If this assumption spreads it will be as dangerous for them as for everyone else. They need to think again.

Abortion law reform

From Dr Colin Brewer:
Sir, A few months ago, you published an article by me in which I stressed the psychiatric safety of abortion as compared with the relatively hazardous demands of childbirth. In both the article itself and in a footnote, my links with the British Pregnancy Advisory Service were mentioned, so that the reader might be aware of the potentially partisan nature of my views.

On July 21, you published a distinctly anti-abortion article, by Dr Margaret White, who was described in a footnote as a magistrate and a general practitioner. She is doubtless both of these things; but it is surely at least as relevant that she is also a member of the executive committee of the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children, a well known anti-abortion pressure group. I find it disturbing that such an obviously essential declaration of interest was not made in this case.

Yours etc,
COLIN BREWER, Lecturer in Psychiatry and Psychiatric Adviser to the British Pregnancy Advisory Service, Department of Psychiatry, University of Birmingham, Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham, July 22.

shorted. Surely all that this means is that two other doctors were of the opinion formed in good faith that there were such grounds. Considering that Dr White's highly restrictive views on abortion are well known, I do not find this at all surprising. It does not amount to a distortion of the demand of the patient as permitted by the law of some other countries, and denied by the 1967 Act, though abortion on demand of the very rich has always been available.

Secondly, she makes the monstrous allegation that "babies of more than 20 weeks have been born alive and whimpering only to be burned". If she has any evidence of this will she please supply it to the police, the General Medical Council, the Department of Health, or the Select Committee of the House, of which I am a member? Or is she just drawing this generalization from the one appalling case she cites from several years ago at Stobhill Hospital, Glasgow, where a potentially viable foetus was aborted in error?

Finally, she claims that there is "evidence that the number of back street abortions has decreased" since the passage of the Act in 1967. I don't know what she means by "little", but certainly the Select Committee has plenty of testimony from the experience of individual doctors and the professional medical bodies that this is so.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID STEEL,
House of Commons.

Chichester Theatre
From Mr Keith Michell
Sir, I was concerned that your theatre critic on July 16 when

reviewing *Made in Heaven*, a new play by Andrew Sachs, gave the impression that Chichester was one of the fortunate theatres of the world receiving large government subsidy.

In fact Chichester has been offered annually a guarantee against loss of up to £10,000 from the Arts Council. In 1974 the National was subsidised to the extent of £450,000 and Stratford received £420,000. Chichester on the other hand would have to make a loss of £10,000, or more, to be given what amounts to twenty-nine hundredths of one per cent of the total Arts Council Drama Grants. Chichester, therefore, has to rely on finding 98 per cent of its annual support from ticket sales to the public and a great number of tourists and most of all from a Theatre Society of local people who decided they would build and keep alive their own unique Festival Theatre.

I would like to take this opportunity to clarify the situation concerning the extent of the subsidy mentioned.

Yours faithfully,
KEITH MICHELL, Artistic Director, Chichester Festival Theatre, Chichester, Sussex.

VAT on the live arts
From Miss Bridget Riley
Sir, Having read the excellent letter from Mr. Donald Albery published through the courtesy of your columns on 21 July, I would like wholeheartedly to endorse his plea for the removal of VAT from the live performing arts. I urge that visual art made by living artists be given the same exemption.

Yours faithfully,
BRIDGET RILEY,
7 Royal Crescent, W11.

Meeting the activist threat to parliamentary democracy

From Lord Alport:
Sir, You were good enough to publish a letter from me on June 14 last in which I argued that what our country needs now was not a coalition on the 1931 model, but a new political alignment in which the party divisions reflected the real differences of opinion in Parliament on the real issues which face our nation today.

Your leader of July 8, powerfully reinforced and elaborated these arguments. Since then, events in the House of Commons and in the country have clearly shown that we are approaching a crisis in the life of our parliamentary system unparalleled in the past hundred years and, perhaps, for nearly two centuries before that. The climax may come within a matter of months—even weeks—from now.

It will then be the duty of all those who have the privilege of membership of either House of Parliament to stand up and be counted. This will be comparatively easy for members of the Upper House, like myself, who, at present, enjoy status and security in exchange for the merest shadow of power. But it will make immense demands on the personal courage and political judgement of members of the House of Commons who will be called on to put at risk their past achievements, their future ambitions, and even their very livelihood itself.

Whatever may be the criticisms to which members of the House of Commons are exposed, the pressures on them from the so-called activists in their different constituency parties, I am certain from my own knowledge that the vast majority are able and determined in accordance with their individual judgements, to serve the national interest at whatever personal cost.

If, therefore, within the next few months—or weeks—the national interest demands that the political realignment be made, the members of the present House of Commons should remember that the recent constitutional innovation of a referendum has made it unnecessary for a government of national unity to drive its support from the Labour, Conservative and Liberal parties in the present House of Commons, to commit itself to a general election before 1979.

The present Parliament, therefore, could have over four years to run. A referendum at any time involving the nation to endorse a policy of restraint and reconstruction would, if supported by a majority of the electorate, give to the national government and to the present Parliament authority over dissidents in the board room and the shadow cabinet. If not made the decision of a national majority, they would do so at their peril.

And, of course, four years would provide ample time to do two other things—to reform the electoral system and to re-orientate the party organisations in the country.

Thus, by October, 1979, Britain could once again be politically stable and financially sound, and possess a Parliament with its authority effectively restored.

Yours faithfully,
ALPORT,
House of Lords.

From Mr Victor Montagu
Sir, The Conservative Party is superior to Labour in many things,

Girls in boys' school

From Lady Walley-Cohen
Sir, The correspondence about girls going to the sixth forms of boys' schools has not gone to the root of the anxiety felt by girls' schools. Indeed, the complacency in some of the replies to Mrs Cadbury's letter shows a lack of understanding of the problems which are created by the action of girls' schools in inviting girls to join their sixth forms.

The problem is two-fold: The first aspect was touched upon by Mrs Cadbury when she questioned the educational advantage for the girls in going into these schools—that it is more for no one's benefit than for the girls themselves. In speaking of girls who attend for particular classes which their own, perhaps neighbouring, schools cannot provide: we are speaking of girls who have transferred entirely. As they have frequently left a school with just as high an academic standard as the school they have joined, and a school offering just as wide a choice of subjects at "A" level it is clearly not primarily an educational—or should one say academic?—grounds that they have moved.

The second aspect which is of the utmost importance in the long term advancement of women is the effect on first-class academic girls' schools from which bright sixth-form girls are leaving. If the top of the school cannot keep up its standards, the standard throughout the school and consequently the calibre of teachers who can be recruited will fall, as any headmaster of a Headmasters' Conference school will be the first to admit. Therefore it is not too strong to say that the continuation or increase in the action of Headmasters' Conference schools in taking in sixth-form girls is going to destroy both in quality and numbers the first-class girls' schools which have been doing such a great job for girls' education. No amount of legislation will enable girls and women to take their rightful place in our society if their basic education is not of the highest quality and does not make it possible for them to go on to take the qualifications which will fit them for "top jobs".

Of course parents have the right to choose the education they want for their children. Let us hope that the parents of girls will weigh the reasons carefully when their daughters wish to change to a boys' school.

There are arguments for coeducational schools and arguments for single-sex schools: there seems little educational reason for this hybrid experiment.

JOYCE WALLEY-COHEN, Chairman, Association of Governing Bodies of Girls' Public Schools, 11 Little St James's Street, SW1 July 23.

Letters to the Editor

not least in its ability to solve constituency problems without recourse to heavy national election and expense. Why does Mr Prence not call a meeting of all registered Labour Party subscribers in Newham North-East and, in a positive voice, dismiss the cabal which has intrigued against him?

Why does he have to wait, bringing his hands, for a National Executive Committee meeting in September, and what can that body do at that distance of time to stop the rot from spreading? Nor is it any good, as Mr Prence found, to resign a seat and appeal to the good sense of the electorate. Their sense, there, but their interest has waned.

In the latter half of October, 1952, a row developed in South Dorset. By the middle of November it was resolved. Conservative Central Office sent a passive spectator to the final meeting.

Yours faithfully,
VICTOR MONTAGU,
Mapperton, Bournemouth, Dorset, July 24.

From Dr John Sleight
Sir, What concerns me about Mr Prence's defeat is not the unseating of sitting MPs by Marxist constituency committees, but the kind of candidates Marxist constituency committees select.

Increasingly the membership of Labour Party constituency committees is being infiltrated by the Marxists, and before long the majority of these committees will have a Marxist majority. In this connection the composition of the present Conservative Party leadership to electoral reform may be in the short term interests of the Conservative Party, but it is in the worst interests of the country. Without electoral reform the Conservative Party may win the next election, but the Marxists will certainly win the one after that, the last one.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN SLEIGHT,
37 The Gables, Ross-on-Wye, Herefordshire, July 24.

Government by decree

From Sir John Foster, QC
Sir, It is to be hoped that the public will become acquainted with the government by decree sanctioned by the 1974 Bill.

The Government can at any time in the future lay any document whatsoever before Parliament, which sets out the limits of the remuneration to be paid by employers to employees. The Minister can then enact a statutory instrument, promulgating these limits. The Minister then decides, without appeal or outside reference, whether any payment by an employer exceeds the prescribed limits. He can also alter the price code where he considers that excessive remuneration has been paid, so as by ordering the reduction of the employer's prices to penalise the employer in question, who in many cases will not know that the Minister has unilaterally decided he has in fact exceeded the statutory limits. Further, the Minister can alter the price code to enable him to make his unreviewable decision that these limits have been breached.

The present, as opposed to the

Wasted resources

From Mr F. A. S. Wood
Sir, One of the endearing habits of the great British public is that of trying to do everything at the same time. We all want to go on holiday at the same time, so rail and coach stations and airports are all full at certain holiday times and nearly empty at other times. It is a waste of time and money for everyone to work at the same time and we all want to play at the same time.

This is all very well if we can afford it, but Britain now, in its old age, trying to function on an unindexed old age pension, really affords the massive waste involved when capital resources are only used for a few hours a day.

Libraries, town halls, swimming baths, grounds, railways, football grounds, racecourses, concert halls and cinemas are all provided or replaced at great cost and then used for a third of the day or less.

Why are so many daily commuter journeys made in an atmosphere of discomfort, frustration and stress, whether by public or private transport? Why does one have to queue for lunch in pubs, snack bars and restaurants at 12.45, when they are empty and waiting at noon? Basically because nearly everyone works in employment or education during the hours between 8.00 am and 5.00 pm and, incidentally, wants their lunch around 1.00 pm and to be home for a meal in time to watch television, between 7.00 and 10.00 pm.

The general issue is the massive waste of capital resources and people's time. Although the problem embraces many other aspects of our national life, my particular concern is with local public transport.

This is, regrettably, both more expensive and less satisfactory than it should be, especially at the times

Tree diseases

From Mr Guy Woodford
Sir, Dame Sylvia Crowe writing as Chairman of the Tree Council (July 18) urges landowners and others to set in motion replanting schemes to restore the landscape now being cruelly devastated by the sweeping ravages of Dutch elm disease. Founded on earlier research is the prediction that the current epidemic will lose virulence and in time blow itself out much as did the outbreak starting in the 1930s. Unfortunately this is a different strain: its properties are not fully known. Perhaps exaggerated by the recent dry spell, this year's losses have if anything been more dramatic than any recently.

Britain imports timber on a gigantic scale. It was on logs from Canada that this latest strain of elm disease reached Britain in 1967.

Why flats are kept empty

From the General Manager of the Peabody Trust
Sir, I write in support of the point made by Mr Michael Dunbury in his letter (your issue of July 22), that the Rent Act is one of the causes of the excessive number of houses and flats now standing empty.

For more than a decade, until 1964, the Peabody Trust had an arrangement with a number of medical schools and other organisations in London whereby flats, which were empty awaiting modernisation or redevelopment, were let temporarily at a low rent upon a written undertaking on the part of the occupants to vacate when required. More than a hundred students and others benefited from these lettings.

With the passing in 1964 of the protection from eviction provisions, which were re-enacted in the Rent Act 1965, these undertakings became unenforceable. Occupants were advised that they could only be put out under a court order for possession, and although, as a housing association, the trust is better able to obtain an order than a private landlord, to do so is a long-drawn out and quite costly process, during which the landlord is often subject to pressure and abuse.

The result is that the trust has virtually ceased to make temporary lettings, and flats stand empty, which under more enlightened legislation, could easily have been avoided, to the advantage of both landlord and tenants.

Yours faithfully,
THOMAS HEARN,
General Manager,
207 Waterloo Road, SE1, July 23.

Public spending
From Miss Patricia Hodgson
Sir, Mr Heath is said to have given a virtuous circle in the anti-inflation debate. But his position as an enthusiastic proponent of incomes controls is difficult to understand except as an exercise in self-justification.

Inflation is caused by the profligacy of governments rather than individuals, and is tackled by cutting public expenditure. Incomes restraint can be used in the short term to minimize the effect of retrenchment on employment and as a psychological exercise in reducing inflationary expectations. Mr Wilson's measures, characteristically, are all psychology and not enough reality. The Opposition can hardly oppose them since they at least recognize the problem. But it would be irresponsible to support what is appearance rather than substance.

In failing to emphasize the need for restraint in Government spending Mr Heath is in danger of seeming to favour incomes controls for their own sake.

Yours faithfully,
PATRICIA HODGSON, Chairman, The Row Group, 240 High Holborn, W.C.1, July 23.

Where Mr Heath spoke

From Mr Adam Butler, Conservative MP for Bournemouth
Sir, It is interesting to reflect that if Ted Heath in his historic House of Commons speech had taken a few pages to the right, from the Despatch Box instead of from below the gangway, he would have received neither nods of approval from the Prime Minister nor the praise of the Government Chief Whip.

Three yards is a long distance in politics.

Yours faithfully,
ADAM BUTLER,
House of Commons, July 24.

when it is used most—in "peak hours". Every bus and driver on the road between 7.30 and 9.30 am and 4.00 and 6.00 pm joins the merry throng of other vehicles, often for in excess of the capacity of roads and junctions to provide for smooth and speedy traffic flow. Journey times are erratic in duration, petrol and fuel oil are wasted in stop-go traffic jams, time-tables are unreliable and travelling conditions for all are stressful and frustrating.

Such are the disruptive effects on peak hour bus operations; their repercussions cause late running and "bunching" for a long time after peak flows have subsided. Far more buses have to be operated and maintained to cater for heavy traffic demands in peak hours than are needed at any other times in the week: a clear example, when they are idle, of wasted resources.

Everybody complains about public transport and traffic congestion, but who is going to start doing something positive about this principal cause of discontent and waste of resources?

One simple objective would be to spread these concentrated demands on our transport system over longer periods each day by more flexible arrangements of starting and finishing times at work and school, in industry, commerce and education, there must be scope for local co-operative planning to improve the situation where large groups are involved and there is surely considerable scope for many individuals to agree their own working times with their employers to avoid peak hour travel.

Can we have a national "think" and determined action on this important subject?

Yours faithfully,
FREDDIE WYLD, Chairman, National Bus Company, 25 New Street Square, EC4.

And it was still being imported in 1973 when Forestry Commission scientists ultimately identified it on Canadian rock elm at Southampton Docks.

There are other unwelcome tree diseases as yet unknown in Britain. Occurs in Asia, USSR, Southern Europe and North America; oak wilt occurs in USA, USSR and Romania; whilst North American Phloem necrosis is even more deadly than Dutch elm disease *Ceratocystis ulmi*. It is extremely worrying that the Forestry Commission, whose statutory duty it is to prevent the import of such diseases, not only failed to prevent the import of the new strain of Dutch elm disease, but took six years to identify it at the port of entry.

Yours faithfully,
GUY WOODFORD,
Sewington Manor, Acton Beauchamp, Worcester.

Two views of détente

From Lord Chelwood
Sir, Whether détente is or is not "betrayal" (leading article, July 23), surely depends on how much account is taken of the implications for weaker countries of any bargain that is struck.

How the 35-nation Helsinki summit likely to be viewed by the people of the formerly independent countries of Eastern and Central Europe, including the three Baltic States? Since the ringing down of the iron curtain they have been denied from elections and many other important human rights which are enshrined in treaties and charters galore to which the Soviet Union is a signatory. Why are these same promises to be given, and hopes raised, yet again?

In the present escapist mood Ronald Butt (July 24) is right to warn us of the risk of false security. He points out that the Vienna talks on mutual force reductions, which the democracies insisted should take place at the same time as the Geneva talks, have not achieved anything. They are the test of Soviet intentions and good faith.

When we see positive progress in that direction; when it is demonstrated that the Soviet Union are no longer fulfilling their avowed worldwide world-wide hostility by subversion and the disruption of ordered society; when we can be confident that there will never be another Budapest or another Prague, it will be time to rejoice. Détente would then have some meaning. In the meantime, as you say, we must continue our "patient, diplomatic bridge-building". But let us not be sure that it is a real bridge, with strong foundations at both ends, and not a rainbow.

Yours sincerely,
CHELWOOD,
House of Lords, July 24.

The regime in Romania

From Mr Ion Ratiu and Mr Horie Gorgescu
Sir, The Helsinki summit will endorse, as you said on July 7, "Soviet hegemony over Eastern Europe... a situation which is still essentially colonial". And we agree with your assessment. But we beg to disagree when you say, on July 23, that the Helsinki agreement "does not (endorse) the present boundaries of the Soviet Empire".

It does. When you quote the case of the Baltic states—"has anybody plans for rescuing them"—you leave aside an important factor. No major Western power has yet recognized de jure the incorporation of those states in the Soviet Union. But they will do it on July 30, in Helsinki. Moreover, they will recognize, albeit indirectly, the forcible annexation by the USSR of large parts of Finland and Poland, as well as the Romanian provinces of Bessarabia and Northern Bucovina and the Hertza district.

The present communist regime in Romania is, as you say, one of those "imposed and maintained by Soviet power and never put to the test of free elections". This regime is unable and unwilling to challenge the Soviet occupation of these old Romanian lands. You know, as we do, that the so-called "independence" of Ceausescu's Romania is a fraud. It is our duty, as free Romanians, to remind the Western leaders that they will sanction and consecrate this "colonial situation" in exchange for a promissory note the value of which is questionable, to say the least.

Yours faithfully,
ION RATIU, Chairman, HORIE GORGESCU, General Secretary, British-Romanian Association, 54-62 Regent Street, W1, July 24.

Changes in the law

From Miss Frances J. Sieber
Sir, With the greatest respect to the Master of the Rolls, would his Lordship kindly refrain from changing any more laws before the law examinations in August.

Yours truly,
FRANCES JANE SIEBER, A* from 1st Year, College of Law, Guildford, Surrey.

THE TIMES BUSINESS NEWS

Personal
Investment and
Finance,
pages 16 and 17

Nation Life policyholders win court assurance of an interim distribution

By Margaret Sasse
After nearly 14 months of suspense the 32,000 policyholders in the failed Nation Life insurance company have been given a firm undertaking in a court case that the liquidator will proceed with making an interim distribution. The judge said it was a matter of luck as to whether a member of the public was beguiled by the literature of one insurance company rather than another. "Unless the industry supervises itself the public cannot know whether it is safe or not."

If the insurance industry were to rescue members of one company who were otherwise going to suffer a substantial loss, the loss would be shared right across the industry and this would be a little difference to policyholders as a whole, the judge declared.

After the judgment, Mr Samuel Stammer, QC, for Eagle Star, a creditor and also the company which tried unsuccessfully to organize a rescue operation for Nation Life, said he was not aware that the insurance industry was on trial. He diverted from the judge's observation.

Although Mr Justice Templeman's remarks are bound to cause resentment within the ranks of the insurance industry, Mr David Jackson of the Policy

holders Protection Committee, who has been actively campaigning to secure a better deal for Nation Life's policyholders, concurred with the summing up.

By coincidence, Mr Robert Taylor, MP, yesterday tabled an amendment calling for the proposed compulsory levy on the insurance industry to help falling companies to be backdated to June 1, 1974. This would enable Nation Life to be included in its provisions.

The court's ruling came two to three weeks earlier than expected. But although the judge was sanctioned a compromise whereby the liquidator can pay an interim dividend out of the assets now available, there are still one or two outstanding problems which will have to be settled by a further court hearing, notably the right of policyholders to the Bournemouth complex.

Among the details settled this week is the position of policyholders who were advised to continue paying premiums in order not to invalidate their policies. They are to have all the post-collapse premiums returned with interest.

Lloyds and Midland profits down in first half

By Christopher Wilkins
Midland Bank and Lloyds Bank have both turned in sharply lower profits for the first half of this year. In Midland's case the downturn has been exacerbated by an additional £2.5m provision against bad debt.

Extra provisions from the Midland were even less expected in the stock market than those revealed mid-week by the National Westminster, although compared to the £18m set aside by NatWest, Midland's allocation is small.

The provisions have helped to depress profits to £41.5m, compared to £66.9m in the first half of last year and £29.4m in the second. This was well towards the lower end of most analysts' expectations. The shares were the less rose by 2p to 230p, but they ended the week 17p down.

Midland does not spell out why it is making further loss provisions, although property lending appears to be one factor. Last year it set aside £10m, £5m in each half, and the year before it provided £10.5m.

Lloyds, which revealed no extra provisions, reported profits down from £25.9m in the first half of last year to £47.4m, very much in the middle range of brokers' estimates. Like Midland's its shares rose 2p to 190p, although over the week as a whole the price has fallen by 15p.

Both banks refer to lower interest rates as a reason for the fall in profits, and both have shared in the general low level of borrowing demand prevailing throughout the period. In Midland's case the sharp rise to £57,000 in losses attributable to minority shareholders points to a loss in the first half of 1974.

Travel subsidiary, Last Year, This Cook made a loss of £16m. In Lloyds's case profits have been depressed by a £2.2m loss from associated companies, which compares against a £4.9m profit in the first half of 1974. This reflects the losses of Grindlays Holdings and Finance for 1974.

The price for the rest, to be delivered in the first half of 1975, is still to be fixed. But it will be linked to the EEC (fixed) price, now at about £360 a tonne.

The Ministry officials told the ACP representatives that Britain rejected claims that it had broken its importing agreement for this year. Britain agreed to buy 1.3 million tonnes between this month and July next year. But the contract for £260 a tonne expires on December 31.

Britain says producers have no ground for assuming that they can take advantage of the high price by selling as much as the 1.3 million tonnes here as possible in 1975. Some ACP countries say that Britain has no cause to assume otherwise.

Even if producers accept yesterday's plan it will still cost this country about £80m in subsidies to refiners.

BSC gains Varley go-ahead for chrome venture in South Africa

By Malcolm Brown
In a move likely to cause controversy in the Labour Party, Mr Eric Varley, Secretary of State for Industry, has given the British Steel Corporation permission to extend its involvement in South Africa.

The Department of Industry said last night that Mr Varley had given the corporation the go-ahead to use part of the funds locked into South Africa by local exchange control regulations for investing in a £20m-plus chrome plant being built in the Transvaal by Johannesburg Consolidated Investment.

Charge chrome is a purified ore used in the production of stainless steel.

The corporation had approached Mr Wedgwood Benn, Varley's predecessor, for permission to make the investment, though it was about 10 per cent. Mr Benn asked the BSC to re-examine possible sources and ascertain whether supplies could be safeguarded in any way which would not involve the extension of investments in the republic.

It is likely that Whitehall was persuaded to allow the investment by the realization that the future of the corporation's stainless steel project at Tinsley Park, Sheffield, could be threatened by lack of supplies.

This is because the expanded Tinsley Park works would mean the corporation more than doubling its present requirement of around 20,000 tons of charge chrome a year at a time when there is a worldwide shortage of chrome ore.

The situation is complicated by the fact that the largest single producer of chrome ore in Russia, followed by South Africa.

Ore buyers are concerned that the Russian supplies are both relatively expensive and unpredictable. This would make for strategic difficulties in planning the steady expansion of plants such as Tinsley Park.

The BSC's contribution to the South African project would come from the accumulated dividends accruing in the republic from the corporation's five minority investments in local companies.

These include stakes in such ventures as International Pipe & Steel Investments South Africa (Proprietary), Steel Wheel and Axle South Africa (Proprietary), and Stewarts and Lloyds of South Africa.

Last night the Department of Industry said the decision to go ahead did not require Cabinet approval. Mr Varley had given his agreement after consultation with other interested departments.

ENI chief replaced by Italian authorities

From John Earle
Rome, July 25
In an attempt to resolve the crisis affecting the state-owned oil and gas corporation ENI, the Italian Government has decided to replace the chairman, Signor Raffaele Girotti.

His successor is to be Signor Piero Sotgiu, a 60-year-old lawyer from Bari, who has been chairman since its foundation in 1962, of the state-owned conglomerate ENI.

This group embraces a varied collection of activities, including engineering, railway equipment, helicopter, military equipment, aluminium, glass, sporting goods, and tourism. He is a member of ENI's executive committee, and is thus acquainted with its problems.

ENI has been at the centre of a controversy over alleged mismanagement, inefficiency, obscure financial operations abroad, and its role among public-sector corporations.

The vice-chairman, Professor Francesco Forte, refused to sign the 1974 accounts and has strongly criticised the chairman's management. Signor Girotti has faced a near revolt among his senior officials.

Signor Girotti's three-year term as chairman expired last October but, as is common with Italian public institutions, the government showed no sign of deciding on a successor and he carried on.

In May he formally tendered his resignation, in a move generally regarded as an attempt to press the Government into reconfirming him.

£11.5m state boost for oil platforms project

By Ronald Faux
Orders worth more than £1,000m for a further 30 oil and gas production platforms to develop North Sea reserves were forecast in Glasgow yesterday by Mr John Smith, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Energy.

This latest government estimate of the platform requirement for the North Sea has been sharply cut from the 100 million tons a year oil production which would give Britain self-sufficiency by 1980 will still be achieved.

Mr Smith also announced that an £11.5m government guarantee would be given to the Anglo-Dutch Offshore Contracting (ANDOC) for developing a fabrication yard for concrete platforms at Hummerston on the Clyde coast, in advance of an order. The guarantee carries a condition that the next ANDOC order should be placed at Hummerston and not at the company's Renfrew yard.

This is taken to indicate a tougher line by the Government on development projects. The investment is the second to be made through the Offshore

Britain balks at £260 sugar price

By Hugh Clayton
Britain told sugar-producing countries yesterday that it would not pay a high price for the 1.3 million tonnes of cane due here in the next 12 months.

Officials of the Ministry of Agriculture told representatives of the Africa-Commonwealth Pacific group of countries in London that Britain would accept less than two thirds of the 1.3 million tonnes at the 1975 price of £260 a tonne, which was agreed in the light of 1974 marketing conditions.

The price for the rest, to be delivered in the first half of 1975, is still to be fixed. But it will be linked to the EEC (fixed) price, now at about £360 a tonne.

The Ministry officials told the ACP representatives that Britain rejected claims that it had broken its importing agreement for this year. Britain agreed to buy 1.3 million tonnes between this month and July next year. But the contract for £260 a tonne expires on December 31.

Britain says producers have no ground for assuming that they can take advantage of the high price by selling as much as the 1.3 million tonnes here as possible in 1975. Some ACP countries say that Britain has no cause to assume otherwise.

Even if producers accept yesterday's plan it will still cost this country about £80m in subsidies to refiners.

City institutions take over Fodens rescue

By Anthony Rowley
A group of about 25 City investment institutions have taken over from the Government responsibility for the financial rescue of Fodens.

They have agreed to underwrite a £3.12m rights issue of convertible preference shares in the commercial vehicle group.

This means that the Department of Industry, to which Fodens had to go for financial help in January, will now be able to withdraw its £2m bank guarantee from Fodens, instead of going on to take an equity stake as had been supposed.

Though this apparently marks a reversal of government policy over intervention in industry, the decision to allow Fodens to seek a private sector solution was apparently taken shortly before Mr Wedgwood Benn was transferred from the Department of Industry. Earlier the pressure had been "quite strong" for a government stake of up to 50 per cent.

The City rescue consortium has been put together by County Bank which, apart from being Fodens' financial adviser, is also the merchant banking arm of National Westminster Bank, whose original refusal to further extend Fodens' overdraft precipitated the group's financial crisis.

However, one of County Bank's directors, Mr John Impey, yesterday emphasized the "arm's length" relationship between the two banks in the rescue moves. County Bank will subscribe for up to a tenth of the rights issue to shares if necessary.

"This is a very significant day for the City," Mr Impey said yesterday. "I am immensely impressed by the support that has been forthcoming from the City and from the Department of Industry. I believe that the operation creates

City institutions take over Fodens rescue

a precedent in financial circles and that it must be viewed as a vindication of coordinated private enterprise."

The way the rescue scheme will work is that existing Fodens shareholders will be offered £3,120,000 of 10 per cent convertible redeemable cumulative preference shares, on the basis of two convertible shares for every five ordinary shares held.

However, while it was considered that existing shareholders should be given the right to participate in the rescue plan, Fodens chairman, Mr William Foden, warns them in an explanatory circular that "conditions will be difficult until there is a substantial upturn in demand for heavy vehicles."

In case present shareholders decline to take up the rights offer, the dozen institutions (mainly insurance companies and pension funds) who already own around one third of the equity will step in and do so, backed by another dozen or so similar institutions.

As part of the package, Mr William Foden will shortly be replaced by a new non-executive chairman, though he will remain chief executive. A new finance director will be appointed also, as will a further non-executive director from outside the company, "to represent City thinking."

Fodens yesterday announced that its profits in the year to March 29 increased from £231,000 to £946,000 before tax on sales up by 25 per cent to £28.3m. One single dividend equivalent to 0.5p a share gross is being paid for last year, against 3.14p the previous year, in order to conserve resources.

Fodens traded "marginally" at a loss in the first quarter of this year, though it should be breaking even again within about a month, Mr William Foden said.

Steel jobs warning by Sir Monty

By Maurice Corina
Industrial Editor
It is believed that the British Steel Corporation has given its unions advance warning that it may want to suspend the guaranteed working week agreement now protecting the job and pay of about 170,000 workers.

This may be the prelude to significant new redundancies and the introduction of more short-time working.

Sir Monty Finiston, the corporation's chairman, yesterday held an informal half-hour meeting with a small team of union leaders.

This gathering was staged ahead of next Tuesday's critical consultations between executives and the TUC steel committee to review progress on the six-point plan, agreed in May, to effect £100m of cost savings by joint voluntary action.

I understand Sir Monty made some pointed remarks about the present guaranteed week at a time when output is low and losses are piling up at a rate of £5m a week.

Suspension of the agreement would give the corporation more flexibility in relating manning levels to demand.

Such a move cuts right across the six-point plan, for one of its concessions to the unions was that the guaranteed working week would be maintained. Even when shifts might be reduced by agreement, people were to be put onto daily attendance arrangements to protect their wage packets.

No statement was issued after yesterday's private talks. Among those present were Mr Bill Sirt, chairman of the TUC steel committee and general secretary of the Iron and Steel Trades' Confederation, and Mr Hector Smith, general secretary of the National Union of Blastfurnacemen.

Minister seeks Leyland view of Innocenti future

From Our Correspondent
Rome, July 25
Signor Carlo Donat Cattin, Italian minister of industry, had talks today with Leyland Innocenti officials on the worsening situation at the British group's Milan-based subsidiary. He saw Mr Percy Plant, recently appointed chairman and managing director, and Mr David Andrews, of British Leyland International.

The minister was understood to have asked them to come to Rome to ascertain their intentions for the future of the Italian company in the light of the reorganization of the parent in Britain.

Italian opinion is apprehensive that the management wishes to force through a cut in the 4,650 workforce, after disappointing sales of the Mini and persisting high stocks of unsold vehicles.

Signor Enrico Breschi, secretary for Milan of the Metalworkers Federation, said: "We are ready to take into consideration plans for reorganization, but not the dismemberment of productive units and much less a reduction in the work force."

Singapore lawyer made Haw Par acting chairman

By Our Financial Staff
Haw Par, the Singapore-based investment and banking company at the centre of the latest Far Eastern controversy, has appointed an acting chairman in an apparent effort to appease the local authorities.

According to Reuters, Mr Robert Booker has been made a director and invited to act as chairman in the wake of the resignation of Mr James Gammell and two other directors last week.

Mr Booker had been an alternate director to Mr Gammell and is senior partner of a prominent Singapore law firm, Allen and Gledhill. Scottish-born Mr Booker holds several local directorships and is a leading member of the Singapore community.

As reported in Business News on Thursday, the company was publicly censured by the Singapore Securities Industry Council over the handling of the proposed link-up with Pernas Securities, part of the state-controlled Malaysian National Corporation.

Haw Par is also the subject of inquiries by the Singapore Stock Exchange and Singapore government inspectors.

The apparent intervention to which the company's plans are being subjected by the Singapore authorities has been widely seen as being mainly because of the proposed link-up between a Singapore company and an arm of the Malaysian state.

Brussels plans for European export bank

In a move designed to revamp the Community's ill-fated moves towards greater economic and monetary integration, the European Commission yesterday, in Brussels, presented plans for the creation of a European export bank.

A "green paper" which is being sent to member governments for discussion says the new body should be charged with financing and insuring large multinational contracts with customers overseas.

Mr John Nash, a director in the European Commission's economic and financial affairs department, said at a press conference in Brussels that the bank would complement the activities of national export credit institutions.

More prime rates advance to 7½pc

From Frank Vogl
Washington, July 25
Most leading American banks are expected to set 7½ per cent prime rates for the next few days, after today's decision by the Chase Manhattan Bank of New York, Morgan Guaranty Trust and the Bank of America to increase their rate from 7¼ per cent to 7½ per cent.

Market experts are predicting that First National City Bank of New York, which held as its 7½ per cent rate today, could trigger a new round of increases by moving to 7½ per cent.

A major concern in the market is the high volume of scheduled new Treasury borrowings, the huge loan demands of New York City and the blunt assertion by Dr Burns yesterday that the Federal Reserve will not ease its tight monetary policies.

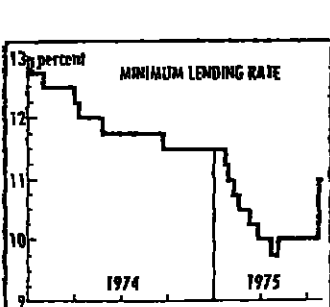
The Fed is determined to hold the money supply growth rate within a range of 5 per cent to 7.5 per cent, but figures released last night showed the rate of expansion in the last quarter to be an annual 10.5 per cent, and this could well lead the Fed to tighten its policies still further.

As it is, the Fed funds rate has risen in just the last week by some 21 points to an average level of around 6.14 per cent, and any further rise would almost certainly lead to new prime rate increases.

The liquidity situation could even become much tighter in coming weeks unless the Fed helps to alleviate the situation. The economy is at last seen to be moving ahead and an upswing in commercial loan demand is now widely expected.

Foreign government purchases of United States Treasury bills have fallen sharply in recent weeks, according to Dr Burns and the liquidity situation has not been helped by the increased seasonal agricultural loan demand.

Overshadowing the market too are the Treasury's huge borrowing plans. Next week alone the Treasury will sell \$3,000m (about £1,367m) of 2½ year notes, \$2,000m of seven-year notes and \$800m of 25-year bonds. The sales will take place next Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.



How the markets moved

Rises			Falls		
Barclays Bank	5p to 24½p	Keyser Ullmann	5p to 48p	Bank	buys
Boots	5p to 24p	Martineau Coors	5p to 32½p	Bank	sells
Brit Am Tob	5p to 28p	Adelphi Wits	5p to 45p	Australia	1.72
Priceless Wilby	5p to 24½p	Waco	5p to 69p	Austria Sch	40.00
GSC	5p to 19p	Rio Tinto	1p to 17½p	Belgium Fr	88.25
GKN	5p to 20p	Shell	1p to 20p	Canada	2.28
Inchcape	10p to 33p	White Pass	4p to 29p	Denmark Kr	13.95
				Finland Mkk	8.25
				France Fr	9.35
				Germany DM	5.65
				Greece Dr	78.25
				Italy Lr	155.00
				Japan Yn	675.00
				Netherlands Gld	5.85
				Norway Kr	11.85
				Portugal Esc	57.00
				S Africa Rd	1.85
				Spain Pes	128.00
				Sweden Kr	9.45
				Switzerland Fr	5.75
				US \$	2.22
				Yugoslavia Ddr	37.00

COUNTRY AND NEW TOWN PROPERTY LTD

Property Holding and Investment Company
The Annual General Meeting was held on July 24 in London, Mr Gerald M. Newton, the Chairman, presiding.

SALIENT FEATURES FROM THE ACCOUNTS

	1974/5	1973/4
Freehold and Leasehold Properties, etc	£24,652,228	£21,927,843
Capital Reserves	8,136,441	6,309,158
Group Profit before Interest and Taxation	2,519,244	1,408,743
Group Profit before Taxation	469,275(a)	402,232
Group Profit after Taxation	312,803	191,977
Ordinary Dividend	132,583	128,954
	(6.5%)	(6.238%)

(a) includes U.K. £146,385 (£340,091) and Overseas £522,989 (£623,011)

Points from the Chairman's Statement:

- The year was particularly difficult and it was virtually impossible to offset the high rates of interest. The profits of our business in the United Kingdom were inevitably reduced. The overseas companies came into their own as regards profitability. All investment properties in the U.K. were rental producing. In the current year we shall have some benefit from the relaxation of rent controls. Development potential is now restricted to Strand and Luton. A Retail trading levels have been satisfactory with a continuing upward trend to date. We have purchased an effective 20 per cent stake in Commonwealth Realty Trust of Philadelphia, which owns investment properties in Atlanta, Baltimore and Philadelphia.

Future Prospects

- We are discarding some of the long term potential which we have nurtured for several years, to leave as better adjusted to meet prevailing conditions. I would expect that in the current year our international operations will ensure that our profits will continue to show a reasonable improvement.
- Copies of the Annual Report and Accounts can be obtained on request from The Secretary, 6/11 Agar Street, London WC2N 4HN.

Motor exports up

Motor exports from Britain rose by 44 per cent in the first half of this year compared with the same period last year. Exports reached a value of £1,250m, more than twice the value of imports, which totalled £542m. This was a rise of 43 per cent over 1974. The figures were released by the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders.

PO computer order

Three ICL computers worth £5m have been ordered by the Post Office, with an option on two more, to handle the production of its 50 million telephone bills a year. The ICL machines bring the Post Office's investment in ICL computers to more than £20m.

W Australia gas

Burmah, British Petroleum and Shell are to help the Western Australian government to draw up plans for developing gas deposits found off its north-west coast.

Print merger cleared

Mrs Shirley Williams, the Secretary of State for Prices has decided not to refer the proposed merger of Odhams (Windsor) and Sun Printers to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

OVER 13½%

INVEST BY 31ST JULY FOR NEXT QUARTERLY PAYMENT

LAWSON HIGH YIELD FUND meets the considerable demand for an above average income, paid quarterly. Since the fund was launched in June 1974 at 100p, it has already attracted more than 6,000 investors and grown to over £4,500,000.

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Income Units 11.00 Accumulation Units 14.13p (OR THE DAILY PRICE IF LOWER)

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J.P. Morgan & Co. Ltd., 25 Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF
 J. & W. Seligman & Co. Ltd., 55 Mark Lane, London EC3R 7DF
 The London Stock Exchange, 15, Old Broad Street, London EC2M 1JH
 The City of London, 1, Old Broad Street, London EC2M 1JH
 The City of London, 1, Old Broad Street, London EC2M 1JH

For full details of the Fund and its investment policy, please apply to the Management of the Fund, 63 George Street, Edinburgh EH2 2JG
 Tel: 031-226 3911 (Not available to residents of the Republic of Ireland)

The Fund is a company registered in Scotland under the Companies Act 1947. It is authorised by the Financial Markets Board to accept applications for the Fund.

If you would rather have accumulation units please tick in box

Share Exchange and Savings plan must be ticked in box for details

I/we declare that I/we are not resident outside the scheduled territories and I/we are not acquiring the units as the nominees of any person(s) resident outside these territories. (Those unable to make this declaration should apply through their Bank, Stockbroker or Solicitor in the UK)

Signature 1 _____ Signature 2 _____

(In case of joint applicants all must sign and attach full names and addresses)

Names in full (Mr/Ms/Ms/Ms)

Address _____

Postcode _____

HY44T1267

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		Jasrot Securities
		Lawson Securities

PERSONAL INVESTMENT AND FINANCE

Fixed interest

A gilt-edged game of snakes and ladders

Lively is the only word to describe the events of the past two weeks in the money markets. Gilt prices have in consequence been moving like the counters in a high speed game of snakes and ladders; only in this case the Government Broker (whose functions I propose to discuss more fully in a later issue) is alone in knowing most of the rules. The private investor has no need to reproach himself for being baffled at the goings on: there are plenty of anguished fund managers in exactly the same position.

Still, it is possible to distinguish some of the threads in the pattern. Obviously the Government's announcement of anti-inflationary measures on July 11 sparked off the most hectic of the action, although there had been heavy buying of gilts in the preceding week in the expectation of tough measures to come.

In any case the market was ready for some excitement in this sector because institutional investors have been moving in since the turn of the year; net purchases of gilts in the first quarter of 1975 alone amounted to £1,817m, against only £304m in the corresponding three months of 1974.

The argument on the one hand was that because interest rates had stopped rising, there was nothing to be gained by putting off purchases; and for investors such as the life assurance companies, who have fixed liabilities to meet at a known date, gilts under such circumstances represent the perfect investment vehicle.

On the other hand during the first half of this year there has been the fact that because interest rates were actually falling, there have been capital profits to be made. So when Mr Healey offered measures that would, he said, bring the rate of inflation down to 10 per cent within 12 months, promising a real return on gilts then yielding, say, 14 per cent, he had an enthusiastic audience.

On the strength of Mr Healey's prognostications that audience promptly went out and relieved the Chancellor of a handsome proportion of his borrowing requirement problems by, within the following two weeks, buying the best part of £1,250m in newly issued gilts (the Treasury 131 per cent 1995 and Treasury 131 per cent 1997 "tap" stocks).

Indigestion was the all but inevitable result of such an orgy. To the extent that all and sundry had been piling into gilts—and other fixed interest stocks: for example a Derby corporation stock issued a week after Mr Healey had announced his restrictive measures was 57 times oversubscribed—the money market was short of the wherewithal to finance its day to day business; and the situation must

have been exacerbated by the normal heavy mid-month calls on the market to finance oil payments. But there were other factors at work too.

Interest rates in the United States have been rising—in fact they still are, with both Citibank and Morgan Guaranty lifting their prime rates by a quarter point on Friday to 7½ per cent.

The extent to which this reflects higher demand for money as the United States climbs out of recession, and the extent to which it reflects an attempt by the United States monetary authorities to impose a more rigid control over the money supply is in doubt; but what is quite certain is that the United Kingdom authorities cannot afford to see London rates get too far out of line.

According to stories rife in the City, that point was underlined to the British monetary authorities by various "gentlemen in turbans", that is, by representatives of both Nigeria and the Gulf States who threatened to pull their deposits out of sterling unless the return rose sufficiently to offset the rival attractions of rising United States rates and the choice between sliding sterling and higher interest rates, the Bank of England opted for the latter.

In the process a great many of the gilt enthusiasts had their knuckles rapped: a development which may not have been entirely unwelcome to the Old Lady. For there seems no doubt that a great deal of the buying was strictly for the short-term, with the quicksters reckoning to get out with a handsome profit.

Done on a sufficient scale, that could make life very difficult for the Government Broker, depressing the gilt market and leaving him with a major problem in making further sales to finance the government's borrowing requirement. To leave the stage with big holdings of the new Treasury issues which, after the increase in interest rates, they must, if they sell, sell at a loss, is on the face of it an effective way of making the punishment fit the crime.

Fixed term bonds—for example from the local authorities—should certainly be left alone for the moment, for the rates are certain to go up over the next week. Rates on bank deposits ought also to go up, but it is by no means so certain that they will.

The banks are constrained by policies not to put too much pressure on the building societies; and the building societies, who certainly cannot afford to pay investors more unless they put up the rate to home buyers—are constrained by policies to refrain from doing just that.

However, it will do the private investor no harm to leave his money with the building societies while the market sort themselves out—unless, of course, he happens to be of retirement age and can tuck the money away for a year. Then the National Savings index-linked retirement bonds are still the best of the safe investments around.

Adrienne Gleeson

Talking shop

Getting away from it all on the cheap

Rising travel costs mean that even a fairly short journey can make serious inroads into the domestic budget. Now that school holidays are fully under way, it may pay to think again before planning an outing or visiting friends and relatives to visit you on the basis of last-year's prices.

The average British household, according to the Government's last survey of family expenditure, spends nearly 14 per cent of its budget on transport of one sort or another and there have been a lot of price increases since then. Rail fares, for example, have already jumped by 27.5 per cent this year (and there is another 15 per cent rise in the September). Higher fuel and other costs have sharply boosted the cost of travelling by coach, car or air.

Ways do exist to beat the fare increases, but the travel authorities make a remarkably good job of keeping them secret from all but the most intrepid bargain hunters. By asking for the right sort of rail ticket (an economy fare) for example, the cost can be more than halved. British Airways offers a winter weekend fare which may be less than the ordinary rail return. But you are unlikely to be told about either unless you inquire specifically.

Alternatively it may pay to consider coach travel, which may well be the most economical method. Coaches have become much more comfortable in recent years and the spread of the motorway system means that they do not always take as long as they once did. However, where more than two people are travelling, it is almost always cheaper to take the car. The overheads of running a car can be very heavy. The latest Automobile Association figures, based on current prices and taking the depreciation on a new car into account, works out at £984.60 a year, £18.90 a week or 9.5p a mile (assuming an annual total mileage of 10,000).

Our findings reinforced a view held even by executives with private aeroplanes that there is usually no advantage in air travel for distances of less than about 200 miles. For longer distances air travel may be worth considering even on a cost basis. At £22 the British Airways Winter Weekend fare to Edinburgh, for example (operative on Saturdays and

COMPARATIVE RETURN FARES TO BLACKPOOL FROM LONDON

AIR	£28.60 Standard return from Gatwick *					
TRAIN	Ordinary* 2nd class return £15.39	17-day return £11.88	Weekend Return £11.13	Economy Fare £8.13	Day Return £8.47	Merrymaker excursion fare £3.00
COACH	Period return £4.95		Premium Return £6.05	Day Return £3.40		Saturday day return £3.75
CAR	£11.02 Petrol only £21.51 Full operating cost					

* No special booking conditions apply.

Nevertheless (according to the latest marketing research) 79.2 per cent of *The Times* readers belong to car-owning households. Consequently, for this exercise we have costed car travel on a petrol only basis, estimating on 30 miles to a gallon of petrol costing 73p.

But even allowing for what could be argued to be an unrealistically low cost for car travel, we found that where there are fewer than three people travelling, it may be cheaper to consider public transport. For one person, we found that the cost benefits of taking a car for distances of more than 100 miles were very dubious.

We chose seven destinations in Great Britain at random at distances from London varying between 53 miles (Brighton) and 503 miles (Oban) and compared the cost and duration of travel by rail, air, coach and car at current prices.

Our findings reinforced a view held even by executives with private aeroplanes that there is usually no advantage in air travel for distances of less than about 200 miles. For longer distances air travel may be worth considering even on a cost basis. At £22 the British Airways Winter Weekend fare to Edinburgh, for example (operative on Saturdays and

Sundays between September 15 and October 31), was slightly cheaper than the standard second class return rail fare at £22.33.

The duration of air travel is much quicker at one hour 10 minutes compared to five hours 37 minutes by rail. But once you move into the special price fare brackets now offered by British Rail, the cost advantage of air travel is dramatically reversed.

The best buy offered by British Rail is their economy fare, which offers return travel for the price of a one-way ticket. This means that you can travel to Edinburgh and back for £11.88. But to obtain this fare you must book the journey 21 days in advance and travel at mid-week both ways.

The next best rail buy is the day return or Awayday which to Edinburgh for example, is £12.27, followed by the weekend return at £15.45 and the period excursion (where you must return within 17 days) which costs £18.16. All special rate tickets are comparable for a single person with car travel, which we estimate at £18.14.

The most consistently economical way of travelling on the journeys we looked at was by coach. In all except two cases (Oban and Penzance) the coach fare was cheaper than

any other form of transport. On the two exceptions it was marginally dearer than the British Rail economy return. The biggest cost advantage in using coach travel was at Blackpool, presumably because this is a popular resort for regular coach users. Here the cheapest form of standard rail fare was more than double the comparable coach rate.

When considering coach travel, we also found some big differences in time taken. The journey relative to its distance. The time quoted to cover the 116 miles to Bristol, for example, was only 30 minutes longer than that for the 53 miles to Brighton.

Time is one detail it is essential to check on before making a reservation. It is also worth checking whether the coach makes a pick up stop nearer to your home than the terminal. Travel into and out of the coach, rail or air terminal to your home can be a costly affair for a family. You should also take refreshment costs into consideration for the longer journeys. Even the smallest snack in a railway buffet or motorway service station can quickly empty your purse.

On the brighter side, it is worth making a special effort to extract details from the five

British Rail regions about their special excursion fares. These are special excursion trains which run on certain dates, some at amazingly low prices. The services are operated under different names and on an individual basis by the regions, but the effort involved in finding out about them is well worth while.

Midland and Eastern Region excursion trains both run under the Merry-maker name. Using this method (next trip August 21) you can travel on a reserved seat from London to Blackpool and back for £3 (adult) and £1.50 (child).

Western Region calls its service "Awayday" and on this service it is possible to buy a day return ticket to Penzance from London with a coach trip to Land's End thrown in for £2.70 adult and £1.30 child. Fares like these take excursions to the top of our travel league.

The Scottish Region's title is "Railaway". These operate only within Scotland but fares are 25 per cent below the normal day return rate. Southern Region has a rather different system, running a "Pleasure Seekers" Club, which runs excursions for members only. Again the fares are very low.

Patricia Tisdall

Insurance

Mortgage policy for frequent house movers

Often the best way of repaying a house purchase loan appears to be by means of a profit-sharing endowment assurance policy. Regular premiums are paid towards it (on which the statutory relief of income tax can be claimed) and it repays the whole of the loan at the end of the mortgage term. There may even be a useful tax-free surplus due to you after the loan has been repaid.

That is fine if you will stay in the same house all the time. But on average, after buying their first house, many families move house every six or seven years. If you move to progressively larger houses as the family expands, you may need larger mortgages, which can complicate the repayment arrangements. Naturally, the cost of repayment increases. But there is however a method whereby you start off paying rather more than the bare minimum of premium towards a life policy. It gives you flexibility in that, after a few years, the same policy can be used to repay a larger loan, with no increase in the premium.

The value of the policy grows at a guaranteed rate, plus bonuses. Once a bonus has been declared, it cannot subsequently be withdrawn. This means that the policy can be cashed in to repay the house purchase loan, or be maintained in force if you think you will be moving house and will be obtaining a larger loan in respect of it.

Normally, when a bonus reinforced policy is used, a relatively low guaranteed sum assured is taken, because it is calculated that if bonuses are declared at a certain date, the value of the policy will be sufficient to repay the loan.

Usually, the original term of this type of policy cannot be extended. So if the first loan is obtained at the age of 29, this figure will be repaid at the age of 49 when, with a higher tax rate, it might be preferable for it to remain outstanding.

The flexible arrangement uses the selected period investment policy of the Scottish Provident Institution. The current bonus rate is 4.3 per cent compounded triennially and the Halifax Building Society allows this policy to be used provided the guaranteed sum assured at the end of the mortgage term, plus bonuses at an assumed rate of 3.6 per cent (thus allowing a "safety margin") would be sufficient to repay the loan. It is also a condition that the sum assured at the age of 65—disregarding future bonuses—must be sufficient to repay the loan.

Provided bonuses continue to be declared at a higher rate than 3.6 per cent, the loan could be repaid well before the end of the mortgage term, or the policy could be used to repay larger loans. A simple example can be taken to show the principle—and the figures can, of course, be scaled up if necessary. A

29-year-old man is obtaining a £10,000 house purchase loan, repayable in 20 years' time. He takes one of these policies which gives life cover of £10,000, which is also the basic guaranteed amount payable at the age of 65.

After 20 years, the cash-in value at the time, plus bonuses at no more than 3.6 per cent, would be sufficient to repay the £10,000 loan. In fact, if bonuses are maintained at their current rate, at that stage the policy could be cashed in for £12,850, or it can be maintained, in which event it will continue to grow in value.

The gross annual premium for this policy would be £342.86—which is about £200 less than for a straight profit-sharing 20-year policy with a guaranteed value of £10,000. But it is more than for a 20-year non-profit or bonus reinforced policy—which would cost just over and just under £300 respectively.

With this policy, one is paying for the flexibility, and what it should achieve in the future. For instance, if the man in our example decides to move house after six years, with a bonus rate of 4.3 per cent, bonuses already attaching to the policy by that time will have increased its claim value at the age of 65 to £12,740. He could therefore use the policy to repay a new 20-year mortgage of this amount, without having to pay a higher annual sum towards repayment of the loan.

If the current rate of bonus is maintained 20 years after buying the second house, the policy would be worth £21,285, and thus would provide a surplus of £8,548 after repaying the loan of £12,740.

In fact, it looks as though the value of the policy might be sufficient to repay the higher loan after 14 years, that is, when it was originally intended that the smaller loan for the first house would be repayable.

Having been in the second house for six years, the owner (now aged 41) may decide to move again. By now, the value of his policy at 65, plus bonuses already attaching, could be £16,240, and he would arrange a further 20-year mortgage for this amount.

At the end of that 20-year period, with bonuses at no more than their 1975 level, and with no increase in the premium, it is estimated that the policy would be worth £33,404, thus leaving a surplus of £17,164 after repaying the loan of £16,240. Or, after living in this house for 11 years, the value of the policy might be sufficient to repay the loan in full.

But once again, the mortgage may not run for as long as that. Six years after buying his third house, at the age of 47, the house purchaser may decide to move yet again. At this stage, with the original policy still in force (with the same premium being paid), he could use the policy to repay a

loan of £20,700 over a 17-year term.

At the end of that period (assuming the current bonus rate is still being declared), it is estimated that the loan could be repaid, with a surplus due to him of £20,550, or he could continue paying premiums for no more than eight years after buying the house, and the value of the policy should be sufficient to repay the loan at the time.

Over the past few years, for understandable reasons, there has been a tendency to concentrate on methods of repaying a loan at the end of the mortgage term which are as low as possible.

With this method, by paying rather more premium (but less than that required for a traditional profit-sharing policy for the term of the loan) it is possible to move house as necessary while using the same policy.

Effectively, when comparing this with the usual arrangement, the collateral provided by the policy is increased for the new loans and its maturity date can be extended right up to the policy anniversary before one's 65th birthday. Actually the policy is written in the first place to that date, and can be cashed in at an appropriate moment before then for a figure guaranteed in advance, plus bonuses already declared.

John Drummond

Braby Leslie Ltd

(Mechanical and Civil Engineers)

Record Profits Exceed £1m

	Year ended 31st March 1975	1974	
Group turnover	£18,154,000	£14,862,000	+22%
Pre-tax profit	£1,057,000	£852,000	+24%
Profit after tax	£757,000	£590,000	+28%
Gross dividend per share	4.317p	3.867p*	+11.5%
Earnings per share	15.5p	12.3p*	+26.8%
Net tangible assets per share	48.5p	31.8p*	+52.5%

*Adjusted for 3-for-5 capitalisation issue.

In his statement to shareholders, the Chairman, Mr. JOHN HINE, makes the following points:

Profits

Record pre-tax profit of £1,057,000 is over four times that for 1970-71, the year Braby Group Limited was acquired.

Dividends

Total dividend of 2.8284p net per share is covered more than 4½ times by earnings. It is regretted that, due to Government limitations, more cannot be paid after such a good year.

Finance

As recently announced proposals for early repayment of £744,000 7% Unsecured Loan Stock of Braby Group subsidiary have been formulated.

Prospects

Results for the first quarter are better than those for the corresponding quarter of the previous year. Profits for the first half-year should grow at least in line with the current rate of inflation.

Copies of the Report and Accounts may be obtained from The Secretary, Braby Leslie Limited, Cowley Hill Road, Uxbridge, Middlesex UB8 2QG.

Round-up

S & P's property sales

● SW service

The annual report of Save and Prosper's Property Fund highlights some of the problems of property bond investment when the property market itself is in a state of decline. But it is a simple example of the heady days at the end of the 'sixties when the money rolled in its millions.

Slater Walker Investments is moving down market. The group has announced a new portfolio management service aimed at investors in the £20,000-£50,000 category. Fortunately the S & P portfolio does not contain too many large units. Its top limit in the valuation brackets is £1.3m. This was just as well, because during parts of last year the managers reckon that prime sites of not more than £1m were the only properties in which there was a market.

Today, they reckon properties of the same kind but with a £3m price tag represent the variety.

So now S & P's portfolio is reduced from 79 to 67 properties, liquidity is £2.8m, but the unit price is improving—after touching 102p in January it is now 114p—and investors are moving it again.

Unit holders following events at First National will be interested to know that Hambros Unit Trust Managers have been appointed to manage the First National Growth Unit.

National Westminster pulled in £750,000 in its initial launch

Unit trust performance

UNIT TRUSTS: Growth and Specialist funds (progress this year and the past three years). Unit holder index: 1,476.3; rise from January 1, +11.1%; over 3 years: +28.9%.

Average change after bid, net income included, over past 12 months: +11.1%; over 3 years: +28.9%		GROWTH		SPECIALIST	
A	B	A	B	A	B
Unit Prof M	40.8	M & G Special	-5.3	Target International	25.9
Drayton Growth	38.2	New Court Equity	-5.4	Henderson European	25.9
Confederate Growth	35.7	New Court Small Cos	-6.1	S & P US Growth	24.9
First Nat Growth	32.3	Drayton Primarc	-11.5	M & G Australasia	11.4
Stratton, F.	28.2	Portfolio Capital	-22.4	Henderson N Amer	11.0
Drayton Capital	27.3	Coyne Growth	-24.2	Lawson Gilf	10.5
National West Cap	25.8	SPECIALIST	-24.6	S & P Ebor Property	10.5
S & P Ebor St Gr	24.7	Security Select F	32.8	Oceanic Financial	10.5
Royal Trust Cap	21.9	Jacot Commodities	22.0	Slater Brit Com	9.9
Grace, M.	21.7	M & G American	37.2	Slater Brit Invest	9.9
Slater Walker Prof	21.5	S & P Ebor Energy	36.8	Jacot Preference	9.4
Reliance Opportunity	20.3	G. T. Japan & Gen	35.6	Drayton Commercial	8.9
S & P Scotland	20.1	Hill Samuel Dollar	32.2	Jacot Fio & Prop	8.5
Morgan Gren Insur	19.7	Charterhouse Int	30.9	Slater Walker N Am	8.3
Vanguard Growth	19.2	Henderson Far East	30.2	Slater Brit Global	7.9
Stockholders F	19.1	G. T. US & General	29.9	Target Financial	7.0
Morgan Gren Capital	18.5	National West Finan	29.2	Slater Walker Fin	6.9
Lyndall Nat Cap	18.1	S & P Japan Growth	28.4	Slater Walker Far East	6.2
Abbey Capital	18.1	Practical	27.1	Financial Priority	5.2
Bambros Recovery	17.8	Target International	25.9	Trident Int	5.0
British Life Capital	15.9	Henderson European	25.9	Slater North Sea	4.2
S & P Capital	15.2	S & P US Growth	24.9	Rowat International	3.8
Schroder Capital F	14.6	Henderson Internat	22.6	New Court Int	3.8
Slater Walker Cap	14.4	Uniform Financial	22.2	Target Preference	3.3
M & G Conv Growth	13.9	Bishopgate Int F	22.1	Lawson American	3.2
Oceanic Performance	13.9	Granchester	21.8	Accord Overseas	3.2
Oceanic Accumulator	12.3	Charterhouse Europ	21.1	M & G Japan	2.9
Brandts Capital	12.2	Drayton International	21.5	Stewart American	1.7
S & P Ebor Capital	10.3	Securities of America	20.8	Natbif	1.3
Manston Recovery	9.1	Crescent Int	20.8	S & P European	1.3
Target Clavmore F	8.4	S & P Ebor Financial	20.1	Gartmore Overseas	0.0
Abacus Growth	8.3	S & P US Growth	20.0	Jacot International	0.0
M & G Compound	8.3	M & G Investment	19.0	Ionian Foreign M	-0.2
G. T. Capital	8.1	Allied Hambro Int	18.7	Charterhouse Int	-0.2
Slater Walker Status	7.9	Target Investment	17.9	Uniform Australia	-0.2
Slater Walker Pers F	6.8	National Invest	17.8	Slater Brit Prop	-0.2
Target Eagle	6.6	Uniform America	17.7	Slater Brit New Int	-14.5
Crescent Growth	5.6	Slater Walker Assets	17.5	Slater Walker Min	-28.5
Target Growth	4.5	Oceanic Investment	16.9	Gr Winch Over M	-30.7
Key Capital	3.5	Uniform Worldwide	16.6	Jacot Australian	-37.6
National Shield	2.1	Metals Minerals	16.5		
Hambros Small Co's	1.4	S & P Financial	-29.1		
M & G Recovery	1.4				
Bridge Talsman Cap	-0.6				
Special Situations	-0.7				
Jacot Compound	-1.9				
M & G Magnum	-2.5				
Henderson Capital	-2.5				

A: Change over one year after bid, net income reinvested. B: Change over three years after bid, net income reinvested. Both taken to July 24, 1975.

M: Trust valued monthly. F: Trust valued every two weeks.

Statistics supplied by Money Management and Unitholder, 30 Finsbury Square, London, EC2.

Pensions

Picking out personal policies


Being one's own boss is a day-dream most of us indulge in from time to time. The self-employed, on the other hand, have their own reasons for envying those in regular employment, not least being the relatively painless process of acquiring a pension at the end of one's working life.

The self-employed person who takes no steps at all to secure some form of pension for himself will be left with only the state basic pension at retirement. This is currently £11.60 a week for a single person and £18.50 for a married couple.

For this pension the self-employed person does not pay merely a flat-rate contribution. In addition to the National Insurance contribution of £24 a week (£2.10 for women) the self-employed must pay an additional earnings-related contribution of 8 per cent on business profits or gains between £1,5

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Markets upset by MLR fears • Property • Investment funds



Jascot Preference Share Fund

YIELDS 14.2%*

SECURE, STABLE INCOME

This Authorised Unit Trust is intended for those investors who require a high stable income from their capital. The portfolio comprises a wide spread of the Preference Shares of Companies, Investment Trusts and Water Boards. These investments should ensure that the high yield offered by the Jascot Preference Share Fund is maintained for all those who invest now and for as long as they remain unitholders.

Preference Shares are fixed interest securities thus giving the income of this Trust stability; and since the dividends of this class of share are paid before any dividend is declared for the ordinary shares of the same Company, such income is outstandingly secure.

Investors should remember that the price of units can go down as well as up and the Investment should be regarded as long term.

*Estimated gross yield p.a. based on the offer price of income units.

Until Friday the 1st August 1975 income units are on offer at 22.8p X.D. and accumulation units at 27.3p X.D. (or the daily prices if lower).

The Managers reserve the right to close this offer if the value of units should increase by more than 25%.

This offer is not open to residents of the Republic of Ireland.

Managers: Jascot Securities Limited
(Registered in Edinburgh 46864)
Trustees: The Royal Bank of Scotland Ltd.
Principal Advisor: Advantage Investment Management Services Ltd.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Jascot Preference Shares Form a wider range. Trustee security and is authorised by the Department of Trade. The buying and selling price includes an agent's charge of 5%. The annual charge is 1/4% plus V.A.T. After the close of this offer units will be available on Monday via the weekly dealing price which is quoted in leading newspapers.

Applications will be acknowledged and unit certificates will be issued within 35 days of the close of this offer.

Distributions will be paid on 15th August and 15th February for those registered by 30th June and 31st December. Commission of 1 1/4% is paid to agents.

To: Jascot Securities Ltd., 21 Levens Street, Edinburgh EH3 5LH
or phone 01-228 1421 and ask for dealers.

I/We wish to invest the sum of **£**
in Units of Jascot Preference Shares Fund and enclose
a cheque payable to Jascot Securities Ltd. (min. £200)

I/We declare that I am/are not resident outside the scheduled territories nor have I/we acquired the above mentioned securities on the surrender of any previously held units in these territories. If you are unable to make this declaration, it should be deleted and the form lodged through your Bank, Solicitor or Stockbroker in the United Kingdom.

Signature(s).
Use caps of joint applicants; all must sign.

Print Name(s)
(State Mr/Ms/Miss or Title and Christian Name(s))

Address(es)

Please tick if you wish cancellation order ☐

PS 22

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Brokers' views

Recent developments in the gilt market have prompted some rethinking of market attitudes towards interest rates. First place in the race to explain the situation is taken by Messrs. Gilman, who strongly believe the firm's long-held opinion that "the outlook for the end of the gilt market remains bullish".

Kemp-Cook suggests two possible reasons for the action of the authorities. Either it was intended to force the discount houses out of long and into shorts, or the Bank wanted UK interest rates up to protect sterling.

Rowe & Pitman, Hurst-Brown also thinks that major portfolios will place increasing emphasis on gilts, although it takes a longer term view of the situation. It puts faith in Mr. Healey's efforts to beat inflation.

In equities, Rowe's faith is less sure. But it recommends a batch of high yielders, such as Imperial Group, Tarmac and Peffer Hattersley.

It also likes some high yielding convertibles. Rolls-Royce Eurobonds 8 per cent 1997-2002 and Whitebread 1990-95 are in its list. Also on yield considerations, Rowe likes the look of some good-quality debentures.

Williams de Broe Bill Chaplin has taken a fresh look at BOC International in the wake of the dismal outcome of the rights issue. It still sees the shares as a "hold" but the shares could be hit when interest rates peak and investors become critical of the group's long-gearing.

In its latest review of brewing, Williams sees profits continuing to rise, if less dramatically than previously expected. The broker thinks the sector should be showing a good premium on other shares.

A major review of investment opportunities in Brazil from Vickers da Costa ends with the assertion that portfolio investment, through Brazil's stock exchange, offers an excellent potential.

Wall Lawrie Macgregor urges shareholders in Scottish & Newcastle Breweries to take up their rights issue shares, and that consideration be given to new purchases as well. A rise of 12½ per cent in pre-tax profits to £25m is predicted this year by Bell Lawrie.

Terry Byland

Briefly

COMMERCIAL UNION ASSURANCE
Anglo-Elementar, in which CU is majority holder, is to link with Austria Versicherungen in the Austrian market, particularly in the field of data processing.

GLTSPUR TO IMPROVE
Better results expected in current year, annual meeting told. All sectors proving successful, and long-term plans for expansion in Europe, Norway and Middle East being studied.

BENFIELD AND LUXLEY
Operating profit £82,000 (£56,000) on turnover for year to February 28, 1975, of £4.22m (£3.96m). Dividend 1.10p (1.05p). Directors anticipate higher profits for current year.

TAN SAI-LAWIN
No funds available for unsecured creditors. Statement of affairs at June 2 shows a substantial deficiency as regards unsecured creditors £720,000 and members £875,000.

SECOND BRITISH ASSETS
Total income for half-year to June 30, £534,000 (£537,000). Net asset value a share, 175p (152p). Dividend for year will be not less than 1.5p.

STERLING TRUST
Pre-tax revenue for six months to June 30, £667,000 (£632,000). Net asset value a share, 164.5p (120p). Interim dividend is held at 1.4p.

VITA-TEX
Turnover for year to April 30, £5.4m (£4.9m). Pre-tax profit £226,000 (£177,000). Dividend is 2.2p (3.15p). Difficult trading continues.

STEWART NADIN GROUP
Turnover for year to March 31, 1975, £27,000 (£232,000). Pre-tax profit £74,000 (£58,000). No dividend in view of loss.

MASSEY-FERGUSON HDGS
Net profit for half-year to April 30, £157,000 (£157,000). Net asset value a share, 175p (152p). Dividend for year will be not less than 1.5p.

COMMON MARKET TRUST
Pre-tax profit for year to June 30, 1975, £462,000 (£499,000). Jersey tax £32,000 (£100,000). Dividend 30.5p (38p).

PEROFINA STEADY
Net profit for half-year to June 30, £275m (2.206m). Reuter.

Bank Base Rates

Bank	Rate
Barclays Bank	9½%
C. Hoare & Co.	9½%
Lloyds Bank	9½%
Midland Bank	9½%
Nat Westminster	9½%
Shearman Trust	11½%
20th Century Bank	11½%
Williams & Glyn's	9½%

* 7-day deposits on sums of £10,000, 6½%, over £25,000, 7½%.

Foreign Exchange

The dollar closed easier on balance compared with Thursday after thin trading in the currency market yesterday. Dealers said that the United States trade figures due on Monday had a depressing effect on trading with operators unwilling to open positions.

The dollar was slightly depressed following Federal Reserve Board Chairman Dr Arthur Burns' statement that the Fed is not trying to push interest rates higher.

Gold rose \$1.05 cents an ounce to \$166.30.

Spot Position of Sterling

Forward Levels

Recent Issues

Gold

Eurobond prices (midday indicators)

STRAIGHTS

DM BONDS

STERLING TRUST

VITA-TEX

STEWART NADIN GROUP

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The dividend should be increased by the maximum allowed, and the interim meanwhile goes up from 2.06p to 2.59p.

Discount market

The discount market had another short day. Once again, the Bank of England was required to supply the market on an exceptionally large scale.

Calling was light, and bids were pitched at about the 9 per cent mark while waiting to see what form of official assistance would be given.

After the inter-ventions, which were thought fully adequate to meet the requirement, rates softened to between 8 and 9 per cent for final balances.

Money Market Rates

Bank of England Minimum Lending Rate 10½% (last changed 25.7.75)

Weekend, Open

Forward Levels

Recent Issues

Gold

Eurobond prices (midday indicators)

STRAIGHTS

DM BONDS

STERLING TRUST

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Commodities

COPPER—Cash wire has gained 25.70 and three months has up 56. After a quiet start, the market opened with a bid for three months, 25.70-25.80, and a bid for three months, 25.70-25.80. The market was quiet, with a bid for three months, 25.70-25.80, and a bid for three months, 25.70-25.80.

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Wall Street

New York, July 25.—Stocks fell sharply today on the New York stock exchange, with a new price rate increase spreading rapidly among major banks.

The Dow Jones industrial average declined 5.18 points to 834.09, with a new price rate increase spreading rapidly among major banks.

Declining issues outperformed gainers by more than a 2-to-1 ratio. Volume totalled 15,110,000 shares, compared with 20,550,000 yesterday.

Brokers said that investors feared rising interest rates would stifle the expected second half economic recovery from the recession.

US gold sharply up

Allied Textile fights back

Wheeler's at peak

Cable Trust

Authorized Units, Insurance & Offshore Funds

Insurance Bonds and Funds

Offshore and International Funds

Bank Base Rates

Bullough jumps 47 pc in opening spell

Pre-tax profits of the Bullough engineering group have jumped from £420,000 to £616,000 in the six months to April 30—a jump of 47 per cent.

The board reiterates its forecast that profits for the full year will not be greatly different from the £1.2m achieved in 1974.

The dividend should be increased by the maximum allowed, and the interim meanwhile goes up from 2.06p to 2.59p.

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The dividend should

BELL'S
SCOTCH WHISKY
"Where ye go"

5 Forw'd bargains are permitted on two previous days.

5-11-66 Ron Hutchinson (S-2) 7 5-11-66 CHARLEY: Decker, Keweenaw
Hemlock. 2007.50.

Golf

Law Report July 25 1975

Glading had a sterling performance in his 50th year as Godwin had the beating of him more than once but could not put the ball into the hole. He spolt two more shots to the edge of the ball with three putts, took three more at the 12th and needed four shots to get down from not far off the green.

Saddest of all was the 18th. Godwin had squared nobly with a four at the 17th and struck a fine ball to the hole at the 18th, straight and unflinching. Glading was wide with his second one and Godwin was left with a putt of 12 inches to beat for the match. What he could not do before, he was unable to do now and he lost the match by one putt as Godwin putts pursuing him to the end.

QUARTER-FINAL ROUND: P. Morley (Reading) beat N. Morby (Pineham) 3-2; J. H. B. Smith (Reading) beat J. Gardiner (City) 5-3; G. C. Edwards (Reading) beat J. C. Edwards (Reading) 5-2; and J. C. Mitchell (Reading) beat G. C. Mitchell (Reading) 4-2.

HALF-FINAL ROUND: P. Morley and Glading (Addington Palace) beat J. C. Mitchell and G. C. Mitchell (Addington Palace) 3-2.

SEMI-FINAL ROUND: Faint heat between P. Morley and G. C. Mitchell, 3-1, and J. C. and G. C. Eccleton beat Glading 3-1.

Final

Heat	Yds	Put	Heat	Yds	Put
1	206	3	10	324	4
2	190	11	11	423	4
3	438	4	12	329	4
4	383	3	13	139	5
5	383	3	14	339	4
6	456	5	15	463	4
7	383	3	16	351	4
8	394	4	17	413	4
9	102	3	18	345	4

Out 3, 2, 25, 35 18 18 3, 415 36

Toye and Tucker through

[illegible]

Rowing

One British crew

incentivized to

Yachting

Foghorn enjoys high winds and waves of five feet

Kingston, July 24.—High winds, which toppled yachts, damaged gear and bent or broke masts, forced the cancellation of the F.K. Finn and 470 classes at the regatta here today. Battered boats limped back to the harbour and rescue crews pulled out sailors and boats from the churning lakes where winds of up to 38 knots whipped waves up to four or five feet.

Despite the weather, Hans Foghorn of Canada, seemed to revel in the conditions and won the Flying Dutchman class. Yves Fajot, of France, capsized his boat but righted it again to finish fifth. He has now clinched first place overall in the Flying Dutchman class.

In the Tempest class, John Albrechtson, of Sweden, won a race in which one squall took the life of a boat. The Swedish skipper's fifth win of the week and he leads overall from Uwe Mares, of West Germany, who finished second. Bert Smyth, of America, won the Tornado race and is second behind a fellow American, Paul Allen, who cannot be beaten overall.—Reuter.

Neither of these quadruple crews has led in world

[illegible]

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Cincinnati 2, New York Mets 1; Chicago Cubs 4, San Francisco Giants 3; Los Angeles Dodgers 8, St. Louis Cardinals 1; Atlanta Braves 5, Philadelphia Phillies 4; Houston Astros 6, Montreal Expos 3.

national title which Foster, contrasting in today's run and the European Cup final, if selected, has said he will not defend.

Stewart's 19-year-old sister, Miss Stewart, won the 1,500 metres champion, may have a much harder race today than her brother (who is in the 3,000 metres) with 3,500 metres field.

Including Francis Larrieu, of the United States, Gerd Andersen, of Norway, Mary Purcell, of the United States, and Ireland's Miss of Yugoslavia, who has done Amis, and Miss Stewart's British rival for selection, Joan Allaway.

The men's 400 metres hurdles pits Alan Pascoe against Bill Hardley and John Akil-Bua, of Uganda, while the American hurdler, Jim Hodel, will run in the flat 400 metres for which he did 1:45.1sec in Turku, Gateshead, and their sponsors Rediffusion, are giving their best to live up to the stirring call, capitals and all, in the programme by the Mayor: "Today our Town is in the hands of the people."

Today's coverage, one of the 13,300 seats has already been sold.

مكتبة الامن الاسلامي

Law Report July 25 1975

Attorney General v Jonathan Cape Ltd and Others
Attorney General v Times Newspapers Ltd
Before Lord Widgery, Lord Chief Justice
When resuming his speech in

parameters. Neither was a convention since the essentials of a convention were missing, namely, the agreement of the contracting countries to its true width and effect.

Collective responsibility was a doctrine that had been used but had never been dignified as a convention. It was said to be a doctrine that was based on flexibility and inter-responsibility, but a most obvious exception had occurred regarding the EEC reference. The British system of government was flexible and that the doctrine of collective responsibility was flexible and not a rule.

Even if conventions existed there would be no way of enforcing them. Conyns referred to an affidavit by Professor Henry Wade, Professor of Law at the University of California, that a convention was not justiciable and that the whole exercise was a waste of time. It was regarded as binding for non-legal reasons so that if it was broken, there would be no legal consequences. Unless the Attorney General established an enforceable cause of action, the only remedy would be to go back to Parliament and ask them to debate the issue.

The Legal QC for the national and the Legal QC for the regional governments, respectively,

The Attorney General referred to the affidavit of Mr Harold Evans, editor of The Sunday

The first was by Mr. Crossman, director of Jonathan Cape Ltd., who said that Mr. Crossman was a close family friend. They had discussed books on many occasions possibly in connection with his diaries. The difficulties were mainly the kind of pressure that one might expect from colleagues. At no time did he or Crossman consider the possibility of major difficulties with the Cabinet or the Office though it was always understood that the typecript would be submitted to the War or Peace Committee. In the customary way, Mr. Crossman had always insisted that one should not let the Cabinet Secretary's advice on matters of national security influence one. Mr. Crossman said that he had always had it in mind that the

powers of the courts. Could one penalize only after publication and by using the Official Secrets Act, 1911? Alternatively, if one knew

of such points, he wished to emphasize that it was purely in order to protect the security of the literary executors that he was instructed to take account of the secretary's views and advice. Mr Crossman knew the other matters would be dealt with by the committee; they should be published none the less.

One demonstration of the fact that neither Mr Crossman nor he had any intention of discussing the matter with the Cabinet office was that immediately he had received the typescript he had arranged for it to be sent to the printers, without thinking that if of type was set before the Cabinet, the necessary might subsequently be required.

He also had had in mind that if they got on with the book there

liable under the Official Secrets Act. Accordingly, the Act was not sufficient to ensure that disclosure

When the typescript had been prepared for press the script was sent to the Cabinet Secretary, Sir John Simon. The proofs were subsequently sent.

On June 21, 1941, the literary executors met Sir John. Mr. Greene was surprised by the omission of the manuscript of the publication of the Diaries. He expected only minor comments on questions of material selection. In *The Sunday Times* he had seen the selection being taken. It had seemed to the literary executors that there would be no objection to the publication of the complete book. The *Sunday Times* had broken the book into broken up Sir John's so-called parameters. They had therefore

in such circumstances the glaring example leading to proliferation set by the Crossman Diaries was

In her affidavit, Mrs. Anne Patricia Crossman, nee Crossman, said she was born about 1970, after the fall of the Communist government, her husband told her that he had discussed with Mr. Wilson the publication of diaries he had written during the Communist administration. Her husband said that Mr. Wilson, who knew that he had been keeping the diary and in-formation, asked him to leave the office, asking him to come back again after the next general election as earlier publication might harm the Labor Party's chances of winning the election. She said that Mr. Wilson promised not to defer publication until the election had taken place. In the event the election was held

pages in Mr Crossman's book the Attorney General regarded as open to the most criticism.

Mrs. Crossman said that her husband had been keeping a diary since 1930, and she was now in a position to write a view to writing "a book on work" on the British Constitution and his memoirs. He decided to publish his diaries as *Diaries in 1966* after reading Lord Blake's *Life of Disraeli*.

Mr. Neill then read an affidavit by Janet Morgan, lecturer in politics at the University of London, who said that in early 1951 Mr. Crossman had invited her to assist him with the transcription into shorthand of the typescript of the diary which he had dictated throughout his period of ministerial office. Mr. Crossman had told her that he wished to publish a diary of his time in office, and she said that she had written his memoirs, since he felt that the

sance of the proper administration of justice. Once it was established that the Crown had that right not only in support of the administra-

On March 24, 1974, she had accompanied Mr. Crossman to the Department of the Environment to discuss accounts against the relevant Cabinet minutes. They had met Sir John Stuart and spoken to him. He knew the text of the accounts and was preparing the text for publication. She was prompted by a desire to ensure factual accuracy. During the meeting she gave specific factual answers to specific factual questions which they had submitted beforehand and were free to note as they saw fit from the relevant Cabinet records.

on the Clapham omnibus, but a man in a very good car on his way to and from the House of Commons. Counsel, however,

the only restraint which he recognized upon his freedom to publish were those of national security and accuracy, and good taste; and that while he acknowledged the press's freedom of personal and political expression, his own was subject to the discretion to publish material was his own.

On March 1, 1974, Secretary of State Michael Foot, Secretary of State for Employment, said on March 3, 1974, said that he had known Mr. Crossland from the time Crossland was a young man, and that in the autumn of 1973 he became one of his literary executors. He had reviewed Mr. Crossland's book, "The Secret Service," published in 1972, which gave a distillation of his conclusions on how government should be run, and he had written, "I have not written what he has written, but I have seen what he has written."

Queen's Bench Division

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